

Missions

Sharing God's Love

Midwifery Care in
the Philippines

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Clothing Center





Thinking It Through

SID HALSBAND

So Now I Give Him to the Lord

Parents of missionaries, especially mothers, have quietly made a sacrifice by seeing their children leave for foreign lands to make the Gospel of Christ known. Sometimes, understandably, this is done quite reluctantly! But may we be encouraged from the life of Hannah.

Hannah: A Woman of God

It is a great honor to be a mother. While we certainly want to magnify motherhood, I recognize it can be a very difficult topic for some folks. Maybe you feel the same way for different reasons.

Before we jump into Hannah's story, Judges 21:25 sets the scene for us: "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." The nation of Israel was torn apart by a lack of leadership. Their spiritual decay was linked to the absence of a king. In 1 Samuel, we're introduced to Hannah, who was the mother of the prophet who would designate Israel's future chosen king. The first thing I want to notice is the fact that, like Hannah, our lives and our difficulties are part of a greater plan that God is unfolding.

Women of God experience real problems (1 Samuel 1:1–8)

Heroes in the Bible were real people like ourselves. "Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none." In those days, the wife's chief role was to provide children. A barren womb was considered a curse and Hannah would have been looked down on. She was spiritually troubled, socially disgraced, and emotionally depressed.

Verse 3 tells us that Elkanah and his two wives made a year-long visit to Shiloh to worship the Lord. Even though these two wives did not get along, the most difficult thing that Hannah faced is the phrase that is repeated twice: "the Lord had closed her womb."

Her problem came from the Lord. This is one of the hardest lessons we will ever learn. Our problems are given to us by the Lord Himself. It is God who is behind the circumstances of life. He allows good things and bad things to come into our lives. God is in charge and as such we should echo Job's faith in Job

2:10, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"

Women of God pray real prayers (1 Samuel 1:9–18)

God uses our problems to get our attention and to teach us. Psalm 119:71 says, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes." Our problems should drive us to prayer. "And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore." (1 Samuel 1:10)

It's significant that verse 18 says, "So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad." After spending time in prayer, she left her concerns with the Lord, and now she experienced the "peace that passes all understanding."

Women of God enjoy God's provision (1 Samuel 1:19–20)

Verse 19 tells us that once again they got up early the next morning and worshipped before the Lord. This was their practice, not something they did just once in a while. Then they returned home. A short time later, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, naming him Samuel.

I want to be careful here. Just because Hannah's prayers for a son were answered, that doesn't necessarily mean that you will be given a child because you prayed for one. But you will receive God's provision, one way or another. He loves to give good gifts to His children: "How much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!" (Matthew 7:11)

Women of God keep their promises (1 Samuel 1:21–28)

Many people make promises to God, only to forget them once time passes. Not so with Hannah. She fully intended to keep her promise because she knew that Samuel did not really belong to her. Hannah not only dedicated herself to her child, she dedicated her child to the Lord. She brought Samuel to the house of the Lord and said, "So now I give him to the Lord."

Let's remember to not only pray for missionaries but pray for their parents who have also made the great sacrifice of letting them go. ■

Sid Halsband serves in South Africa.

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COVER PHOTO: Georgia Macad—Woman holding baby, Kalinga, Philippines



Kalinga, Philippines

Sharing God's Love through Midwifery Care

BY GEORGIA MACAD

It was January 2004 when I first arrived in the Philippines as a young single woman, eager and ready for a midwifery clinical internship. My plan at the time was to be trained as a missionary midwife, so I'd be prepared to serve wherever God might send me. I spent most of 2004 in Davao City where I served the urban poor at a busy maternity center (Mercy Maternity Center). I loved my time in Davao but didn't feel a pull to stay there long term. In October of that year my fellow missionaries and I had the opportunity to travel far north into the tribal villages of Kalinga in the northern Philippines. One of my leaders had been sharing the Gospel in one of the tribal Butbut villages for a few years and had gained enough trust to bring us "Americanos" with her for a short visit. Within a few hours of arriving in the village of Bugnay, I fell in love. I'm not sure if it was the coffee-drinking, cigar-smoking, tattooed old ladies or the rice terraced mountains that grabbed my heart first, but I knew that this was a place I'd be happy to stay.

During this visit to the mountains we had the opportunity to do prenatal visits for the pregnant women right in their homes. One woman was pregnant with her first baby, and her blood pressure was extremely high. We explained the risks of her condition and offered to take her to the nearest hospital six hours away. She told us she would consider it later but that she didn't want to go then. A few weeks later, when we were back in the capital of the province, we got



From top: A mother and child in Kalinga; View of village of Bugnay where our sister clinic was opened and where Georgia first fell in love with the tribal people of Kalinga; An elderly Kalinga woman.

news that this young mother and her baby had died in labor due to severe eclampsia (a deadly condition of pregnancy characterized by extremely high blood pressure and seizures). My heart was broken and it was at that point I decided that after my internship I would go back to Kalinga and work as a midwife to help prevent more unnecessary deaths.

Listening to God's call

After passing my midwifery board exam in February 2005, I returned to Kalinga with hopes of using my skills and training to share the Gospel in a practical way. It was during this time I met and fell in love with a wonderful young Kalinga man whose heart was to serve his own people. Achao and I attended the same local church and served on ministry teams together, bringing the Gospel to the tribal people of Kalinga.

Although 2005 was amazing in many ways, it ended with the ministry I worked with transferring to Manila—a 12-hour bus ride from Kalinga! In February 2006 I left the Philippines with a broken heart and a lot of questions. I was sure God had

If God had called me then nothing could stop me.

been leading me to serve the tribal people of Kalinga, so why hadn't it worked out? It didn't take very long after returning home to come to my

senses. If God had called me to be a midwife in Kalinga, then nothing could stop me. If there weren't ministries doing that sort of work, then I'd start one.



Clockwise from top: Georgia doing prenatal check ups; Georgia outside the maternity center; Midwives on an outreach in the community.

Building the ministry

In December 2006 I returned to Kalinga with the prayers and support of all my friends and family and together with Achao began "Abundant Grace of God Maternity Center Inc." I gathered local friends and midwives who shared the vision of sharing God's love through maternity care, while Achao, who was now my fiancé, began renovations on a rented house to make it into a maternity center. We spent the first months going into the surrounding communities, sharing the Word of God along with health teachings about the importance of delivering with a skilled health care professional. We officially opened our doors in January 2007 and had our very first delivery on February 25!

Since we opened more than 10 years ago, we've seen many changes in our ministry and in the communities around us. We began with a staff of two midwives and two midwifery students, and now we have 12 midwives as well as six more support staff. We've delivered more than 2,000 babies and been a part of training more than 100 local midwives. Each delivery is bathed in prayer as the midwives share God's love with women in their most vulnerable hour.



Our main clinic in Tabuk City.

Hope for MJ

Femie delivered her first baby boy with us in 2012, and because she appreciated the good care she received, she returned to deliver with us again in April 2014. We'd just had a difficult week at our clinic, having delivered a baby boy with severe



Femie and baby MJ after surgery.

congenital malformations who didn't survive. We all felt pretty sad, and when Femie arrived in labor she brightened our day.

Femie labored for a long time and when her baby was born, we immediately saw that her son had a complete cleft lip and palate. It was difficult at first for Femie to come to terms with her baby having a mouth malformation. Her midwives were very kind and compassionate and helped her to see all the wonderful things about her beautiful baby boy. Because of such a severe cleft, breastfeeding proved difficult for baby MJ.

I'm always amazed at how God is at work in everything. After MJ was born I received an email from a midwife working at a clinic in Manila to tell me that she had just received a shipment of medical supplies, and she wanted to share with us! I asked her if she by any chance had a special bottle for cleft-palate babies, and as it happened—she did! She shipped it right away along with a breast pump, and we were able to bless MJ and his mom, Femie, with these gifts.

We were able to get MJ into a program that provides free cleft palate surgeries, and when he was six months old he had his first surgery. His mom brought him into the clinic afterward for a "photo-shoot," and we were all excited to see him doing so well. He had his follow-up surgery in 2015 at one year of age, and both MJ and Femie are doing great.

Opening a second clinic

In 2012, through the generous donations of people from our home church in Canada and through a grant from a German relief and development organization (Geschenke der Hoffnung), we opened a second maternity center in the mountains of Tinglayan, Kalinga. This clinic serves five of the most remote Butbut villages in the province where, traditionally, women delivered their babies at home by themselves. By opening our clinic and introducing compassionate and competent midwifery care, we're able to offer them an alternative to delivering alone. We've had great success and seen numerous lives saved and hearts touched through the staff of the clinic.



Left: Busy Kalinga women.

Below: Some of our patients at our sister clinic in Bugnay.



Celebrating 10 years

This year, 2017, we're celebrating 10 years of marriage and ministry. We have three sons: Emmaus (2008), Lucas (2010) and Zion (2012), the last two born in the Philippines with the help of the very midwives I trained! We're blessed to have many people helping us in the clinic and at home, so we can continue to share the Gospel through midwifery care while also caring for three very active boys.

We're excited about a new "waiting home" that will open this year. Because of the distance between some of the villages and our clinic, our patients asked us to build them a place to stay while waiting to deliver so they would not have to hike in labor!

We're encouraged this year by the spiritual growth of our staff. Since opening, we've led a weekly devotion for the staff and encouraged them in their walk with the Lord. Last month, however, the staff decided to organize an extra Bible study and prayer time so they could grow even closer to the Lord!

Praying for the future

Please pray for us as we continue to work toward all families in the province of Kalinga having access to competent, compassionate and godly midwifery care. Pray that we wouldn't grow weary in doing good as we lead our staff both spiritually and practically. Please pray for our ministry to reach more families and that we would have the financial resources to hire and train more midwives and to keep our clinic running in great shape. Most of all, please pray that God would use our family and this ministry to lead the families of Kalinga to know and follow Jesus in a deep and personal way. ■



Some of our 2,000 patients at our Christmas party.

Conversation with a tribal elder

The other day an elderly lady told me how times are changing. She said that in her day the women were strong: they would give birth in the rice fields, tie the babies to their backs and keep working.

So I asked, "Do you think it was better in your time? Do you think the clinic here is not necessary because the women should be strong enough to deliver without a midwife?"

She grabbed my arm and prepared to correct me, "Oh no! We thank God for the clinic!" She continued to explain that before, they didn't cut a woman's stomach to get a baby out and that she didn't like that many women do that now. I agreed that I didn't like that either. She continued, "But at the clinic you let them try to deliver normal, and if you think it's better, you take them to the hospital to have their stomachs cut and, even if they have to cut their stomachs, when they come home they still have a live baby."

The next statement I asked her to repeat a few times to make sure I had translated it properly. My mouth gaped open when she informed me that she gave birth to 13 children, but only three lived past their first year of life. She shared she would have been willing to have her stomach cut also if it meant more of her children would have lived. My favorite part of the conversation was that she did not thank me or the other midwives but rather expressed all her gratitude to the One who deserves all the credit—our Heavenly Father.

Georgia and "Achao" (Awoy Jr.) Macad have been full-time missionaries to the province of Kalinga in the Philippines since 2007. Georgia is originally from British Columbia, Canada, and was commended by Granville Chapel in 2011. Achao is a native of the Philippines.



May We Introduce

George & Molly *Serving in Special Areas*

George's Testimony

I was born and raised in a Christian family. The church we attended used liturgy for church services, which were conducted by ordained priests. However, within the congregation, there were born-again Christians who preached the Gospel, thus giving me exposure to the Good News. Another influence was my extended family, who fellowshipped with a Brethren assembly and a Pentecostal church. Whenever they visited, they shared the Gospel and discussed doctrines. My cousins stayed with us while attending college. This provided me another exposure to the Gospel and assembly fellowship. There was also an assembly evangelist, whose writings on eschatology were of great interest to me. Despite all such influences, I never had a conviction of the reality of sin in my life. While in high school, I began to be interested in the Gospel and started to attend meetings, still unaware that I was a sinner. In 1970, my cousin shared the Gospel with me and asked if I was a Christian. At that time I was convicted that I was a sinner and realized that I was not saved. That night, I prayed to the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sin and received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. In February 1971, I was baptized and started to fellowship with Pentecostal believers, and I visited an assembly every time I went out of my home town. While in college, I became heavily involved with evangelistic outreach among college students.

Molly's Testimony

I was born and raised in a Christian home. The Lord used my father (a fervent evangelist who led many to the Lord) and his cousin to establish an assembly in our area. Thus I was privileged to be raised under the sound of the Gospel. At the age of 14, in 1965, I came to know the Lord during a cottage meeting. There, I heard the Gospel and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. The Lord used 1 Peter 2:22–24, specifically the thought that the Lord had done no sin and yet He died for me, to bring me to Himself. Until I was saved I was afraid of death; now I have the great hope that my Lord will come and take me to heaven. I was up and down in my spiritual life for some time, and then I began to grow

steadily in the Lord upon my arrival in the U.S. in 1973. When I arrived, I could hardly speak English and was confronted with several other limitations. During that time I began to experience the closeness of God. Since then I have always had a strong desire for others to come to know the Lord; thus I started witnessing and praying for their salvation whenever I met someone.

Together

Our parents arranged our marriage and we were married in 1972. Soon after, George came to Portland, Oregon, to attend seminary. Molly, along with our son, Sam, joined George there in 1973. While there, we fellowshipped with a Baptist congregation. Upon graduation from seminary, George did practical training in campus work. During that time, Molly and George both understood that God was calling them to ministry. In 1979, with our four children, we went to a Special Areas country to work among college students. We continued in this work till 1996 when we came back to the U.S. for our children's education.

For several years on the mission field we fellowshipped with a group of Christians in a non-denominational church. However, in 1989, we started fellowshipping with an assembly and we've been in assembly fellowship ever since. In the U.S., we started to fellowship with the saints at Holland Gospel Chapel in 1998. Every year since then we have returned to the mission field for four to five months to continue the ministry. This pattern continued till 2011 when we returned to the mission field full-time.

George spends most of his time in itinerant ministry, preaching, counseling, encouraging and scouting out needs and efforts that can be supported. Molly assists him in the work, ministering to the ladies, along with doing personal evangelism. All of our children have come to know the Lord and, along with their families, are actively involved in their local assemblies. We have 14 grandchildren for whom we pray. We're also fairly involved in the care of George's parents, who are in their 90s. ■

Angola

Our Great God Works in Great Darkness

BY SAMUEL SIMONYI-GINDELE



We first began visiting Angola almost 12 years ago. Not long after, we were commended to the work of God and lived and served at Chavuma Mission Hospital in Zambia. The nearby border with Angola opened at that time, and I began regular bike trips into the country, helping local Zambian brethren with preaching the Gospel, teaching in small village assemblies, and holding monthly mobile clinics. It was not until April 2014 that the Lord opened the way for us to move into Angola to live. A few months later we made Biula our home.

The setting

Biula is the site of an old mission station that last had resident missionaries in the mid-1980s. It was abandoned at that time due to war. Troops occupied the mission shortly after, and when the war ended in 2002 the shells of three missionary houses remained as well as a crumbling hospital, a rundown clinic, and an old gospel hall.

When we arrived in Biula, much essential practical work had already been done. There was a generator, a ram water pump, a newly constructed building for the church to meet in, and a basically renovated clinic.

The ministry

Our vision for medical work in our area is to strengthen the Christian nurses and clinics and to make them self-sufficient by working alongside them to improve their diagnostic and treatment skills and to encourage them to use their work as a testimony for Christ to their patients, without creating a large institution dependent on us. Therefore, at the start of each major clinic day in Biula (or in Luma Cassai), we have a gospel

message and health talk as people start to line up from early in the morning. We try to take time with each patient, pausing to pray with those with serious illness or an uncertain diagnosis. This is not merely trying to be a “good testimony” but from a real sense of dependence on God to guide and heal as

*We have seen God
preserve life and heal
in remarkable ways.*

we work in a place where we have no laboratory, very limited equipment, and only basic medication, all the while working in Portuguese or Chokwe (the local language) with patients who usually have no knowledge of basic health. We often refer patients to the “Great Physician.” We have seen God preserve life and heal in remarkable ways, and as a result our faith is strengthened too.

Bible teaching and visiting in nearby villages is a vital part of our ministry as well. Currently, I have a regular weekly teaching meeting with the local church in Biula, giving a simple overview of the Bible with handouts and study notes in Chokwe and Portuguese. At times, we have opportunity to visit for day meetings in other nearby assemblies. Elizabeth and I regularly visit in the surrounding villages, sometimes to visit the sick, check on a newborn baby, or, as in the month of January, to distribute calendars.

The challenges

We face many challenges. Angola is in an economic crisis and almost all government help with medication has stopped.

Top row (L-R): Angolan woman in front of her cook house, manioc drying on the roof; People at the clinic in Biula to hear the Gospel before being attended to; Corindos, the nurse, testing a child for malaria; Preaching at the clinic with Corindos interpreting Portuguese to Chokwe; After the breaking of bread at Biula—The tire rim hanging from the tree is used as a bell to let people know when meeting time is.



Most clinics have only one nurse left, and they have not been paid for many months. Our idea of making the clinics self-supporting is untenable presently. We charge a small fee for a consultation and for medications, but this does not cover the cost of medication, which we tried to source locally but now have to purchase in Zambia or elsewhere.

We seek to let God guide in how we develop the medical work since the Lord Jesus sent the disciples to preach and heal (Luke 9:2,6) thus linking the two activities together. In practice, it is easy for the medical work to overwhelm every other facet of service and life, and so we look to God to help us keep the balance between “preaching” and “healing.” We would like to see a work develop that would stand if we’re present in Angola or not. We envision a work maintained by Angolan brothers and sisters, used by the Spirit of God to show the Light of the World in a place where spiritual darkness and medical needs are profound due to past war and present corruption and injustice.

Other major challenges in the medical and spiritual work are language and illiteracy. Being comfortable in Portuguese is not adequate as many Angolans in the rural areas around us only speak Chokwe, so much of my time is still dedicated to language study. We’re faced with the prospect of having to start literacy classes as well. How can we preach personal devotion to the Lord or expect growing spiritual maturity when the believers can’t read the Scriptures for themselves?

God at work

Angola is a dark place spiritually, but God is working, and evidence of His faithfulness and calling to us is on every hand.

At the start of 2017 we saw a beloved senior missionary colleague, Ruth Hadley, suddenly forced home for an indefinite period for health reasons at a point when the needs and opportunities for God’s service in Angola are increasing and missionaries are few. The assemblies face many challenges, including pressure to move away from basic biblical assembly principles, division between assemblies, fear of witchcraft, an unclear gospel message, and poorly taught elders. Yet, it is the overwhelming needs that make Angola a thrilling place to serve! To see God at work despite our weakness and the crushing spiritual and physical needs on every side is akin to being in Peter’s shoes when he saw Christ walking in the darkness on the stormy sea and heard His call to join Him, “Come!” Let us each keep our eyes fixed on Christ and go to Him! ■



Dr. Samuel and Elizabeth Simonyi-Gindele were commended in 2012 by McAdam Avenue Gospel Hall, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

LEARN MORE

Read these books to learn about earlier missionary work in Angola. Both books are available through GospelFolio.com and Amazon.com.

Angola Beloved by T. Ernest Wilson
Leaves from an African Jungle by R. C. Allison

Bottom row (L-R): The new addition beside our old house—The old house was built for the Wisemans, a couple without children, so it was tight for seven of us; Preaching at a bush conference with Mutondo interpreting since the audience were Luvalas; Boys at a “circumcision camp,” a rite of passage here.

May We Introduce

Ruth Tucker
Serving in Zambia



Hello, my name is Ruth Elizabeth Tucker but most of my friends and family call me Ruthie! The oldest of five siblings, I grew up with the blessing of Christian parents. My parents were commended to Turkey when I was about a year and a half, and we lived there until I was eight years old. Once we moved back to the States we lived in Kentucky, and it was there that I trusted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I knew about the Bible and clearly heard the Gospel from infancy, but it wasn't until late one night as a nine or 10-year-old I began to wonder if I had a relationship with Jesus Christ, and it was clear to me that I did not. It was that night I thanked Him for the gift of salvation and believed that He died on the cross for me. After living in Kentucky for five years, we moved to Tampa, Florida, where I have lived until now.

I always loved to work with children, so when it was time to decide what I wanted to do as a career, I knew it would be children focused. I worked at a learning center and through that opportunity I applied for a grant that had an early childhood education focus. After graduating from the University of South

Florida, the Lord provided a job in the public school system teaching kindergarten, and I worked there for two years. During these two years, I struggled with the inability to publicly teach kids about the eternal hope I have. In addition to some other conflicts, it was clear to me that I needed to leave the public school system. So, I resigned after my second year, all the while asking the Lord for clear direction to where He wanted me.

“Let the little children come to Me.”

—Mark 10:14

The summer I resigned I heard about the possible need at Sakeji Mission School in Zambia at least four different times from various friends and acquaintances. I did some research myself and asked

select believers to pray with me as I began to talk to Sakeji staff about possibly joining them in Zambia. Sakeji asked me to come for the last term of 2016 to help in various classrooms. After about six weeks at Sakeji Mission School, I believed the Lord wanted me to stay longer, and I committed to teach the first-grade class for the 2017 year. Please pray with me as I continue to seek the Lord's will regarding my place at Sakeji. ■

Pray For Missionary Kids!

Did you know that 319 children are listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*? They each face unique circumstances and appreciate your prayers. Please remember to pray for missionary children each day.



Missionary children at the 2016 European Christian Workers' Conference—Photo by Philip Parsons



Pray for Nantes, France



BY GERRY AND DOROTHY SEED

The city of Nantes continues to grow, especially in our part of the city. Cranes and new developments are everywhere. But as the city grows, its spiritual needs are growing even faster. Apart from a few African ethnic churches, no new evangelical churches have been planted in the last nine years (since our church plant at the Beaujoire). In the whole center of Nantes (with more than 120,000 inhabitants) there is no evangelical church (only one mainline liberal Protestant church). The need is great. The workers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth workers into this harvest field. We are looking to the Lord to raise up a team who have the city center at heart.

Pray for Nantes Beaujoire

The church at the Beaujoire (east side of the city) has not seen substantial growth over the past year. After an exodus of young adults last year for studies and work, we're encouraged to see a good number of new students coming along but not many conversions. We're thankful that many of those promising young people who have moved on to other fields are being used by the Lord. But we long to see a deeper spiritual awakening in the area of Nantes where the Lord has placed us. We have seen fewer baptisms during this past year than in previous years. After two weekends of concentrated prayer and fasting since September, we are encouraged to see the Lord at work. Please pray with us for wisdom in outreach and for a movement of the Spirit of God.



Pray for Nantes-West

The Nantes-West church is coming through a difficult time after all three of the elders withdrew. We're in the process of helping set up a new leadership team and reorganize the regular life of the assembly. There is a great group of young peo-

ple committed to seeing the church move forward. We are excited to see what the Lord is doing in spite of difficult circumstances. Both churches have been strengthened through the development of home groups. These are a vital element in pastoral care and good training for future leaders as well.

One of our main burdens is to see a real movement of "discipleship multiplication" taking off in Nantes—a movement where new disciples will eagerly commit themselves to reproducing new disciples. We are in the process of putting together a simple multipurpose tool that young Christians can use with others as an evangelistic tool but also as a basic discipleship course and a preparation for baptism. It is a tall order to combine different goals in one simple study guide, but we see it as an essential element in motivating these young believers. Please pray with us for a real movement of God in disciple making (Matthew 28:19).

Pray for Nantes immigrant population

Nantes is taking on a more and more cosmopolitan aspect. A regular Bible study is held with a group of young Romanian Gypsy brothers. Our aim is to train them with solid teaching and thus equip them to teach their own people. Their thirst for the Word is so refreshing. Others are involved in a literacy program with a group of Middle Eastern and African refugees. Closed mission fields have come to our doorstep. May we be faithful in proclaiming the Word of Life.

Thanks for support

We are so grateful for each one of you who support the Lord's work in this part of France through your faithful prayers and practical support. May the Lord bless and encourage you in your walk with Him. ■



Gerry Seed is commended by Bethany Gospel Chapel, Regina, Saskatchewan. Dorothy Seed is commended by Comber Road Gospel Hall, Northern Ireland.



BY MARILYN RISDEN

CMML CLOTHING CENTER MINISTRY

*"The Lord will provide."
Genesis 22 : 14*

The CMML Clothing Center ministry has served the Lord's servants for 63 years. In 1954, Anne Jacobson, and other interested women in the Yonkers, New York, area felt burdened to provide gently used and new clothing and accessories to the Lord's servants who were either going to, or coming from, overseas service. The ministry began in the Jacobson home and continued there with the assistance of several women until 1966 when the Clothing Center was moved to "The Fields" office in New York City. In 1972, the ministry was moved to the lower level of the present CMML facility in Wall, New Jersey, where it remains today.

THE MINISTRY TODAY

In 2016, more than 100 families, representing 37 countries and five continents, visited the Clothing Center. Clothing and monetary donations were received from 23 States and Canada. Some assembly ladies' missionary conferences collected items and made donations to the Clothing Center Fund as well.

A volunteer staff of approximately 20 ladies, representing seven local assemblies, devote one day a month to work in the Clothing Center. Their tasks include sorting, tagging, purging, and putting items on display. When a missionary visits, the ladies are happy to assist them to select needed items.

The Clothing Center consists of three large rooms: a men's and boys' department, a ladies' and girls' department, and a work area. Recent updates to the Clothing Center include a new ceiling and recessed lighting, new carpet, and light sensors. We strive to make the Clothing Center a warm inviting place where the Lord's servants have their clothing needs met with appropriate apparel for everyone in the family. Toiletries and accessories, such as belts, shoes, handbags, and jewelry are also available. All items are given free-of-charge.

HOW IT IS USED

While fashions and styles have changed, the goal of the Clothing Center ministry has remained the same. Full-time commended overseas and home workers as well as "refocused" servants avail themselves of the many items available. Some workers take items back to their field of service to use in their ministries, such as orphanage and refugee work.

A visitor shared the blessings provided to her family with the following note:

I'm convinced that many of your donors are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in their giving, and the Lord is behind every provision. I have to say that every time I've come to the Clothing Center there have been answers to prayer for provisions—and even some special surprises."

Your part in this practical and necessary ministry blesses many at home and abroad.

Marilyn Risdén is the CMML Clothing Center manager.



Anne Jacobson



Q&A

People often inquire about what to send to the Clothing Center and how they can help. Here are the answers to our most frequently asked questions. Visit CMML.us/clothingcenter for more information.

HOW DO MISSIONARIES USE THE CLOTHING CENTER?

Returning from the field they look for:

- ▶ New sizes and replacement items
- ▶ Updated clothing that fits American culture
- ▶ Clothing appropriate for a different climate

Going to the field they need:

- ▶ Long-term needs—various sizes, appropriate for the culture and climate
- ▶ Items unavailable overseas
- ▶ Items for specific overseas ministries

WHAT DOES THE CLOTHING CENTER PROVIDE?

A variety of clothing and accessories for men, women and children

New toiletries

Shoes

Luggage

WHAT DOES THE CLOTHING CENTER NEED?

Clothing that fits the following criteria:

- ▶ Clean—free of stains, no pet hair, no rips, no missing buttons or holes
- ▶ Approximately less than 10 years old
- ▶ Washable, preferably not “dry clean only”
- ▶ High cotton content for those serving in hot climates
- ▶ Multifunctional—good for layering or to mix and match

Business-casual clothing

Boy's clothing

- ▶ sizes 5–18, all items

Men's clothing

- ▶ belts, new dress or casual socks, short-sleeved shirts

WHAT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO DONATE TO THE CLOTHING CENTER?

Heavy, bulky clothing (Airline baggage restrictions limit how much missionaries can take)

Outdated styles

Items that are extremely dressy or trendy

Very unusual sizes

HOW CAN WE BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS MINISTRY?

Donate

- ▶ Items listed above or at CMML.us/clothingcenter
- ▶ Financial donations to the Clothing Center Fund are used to purchase items in short supply.

Volunteer

- ▶ For assemblies in the metropolitan New Jersey/New York area, commit to volunteer one day a month. Contact Marilyn Risden (marisden@optonline.net) for more information.

Pray for...

- ▶ Awareness of CMML and the Clothing Center ministry
- ▶ Consistency with volunteering
- ▶ Strength for the physical tasks of maintaining the work

HOW DO WE DONATE CLOTHING?

Deliver items personally to the Clothing Center at CMML in Wall, New Jersey.

Mail packages to:

CMML Clothing Center

2751 18th Ave.

Wall, NJ 07719

(Please do not send packages to the PO box)

MIDWEST 26 Below

Don't Waste Your Life

BY CRAIG FRITCHEY

Despite a whiteout blizzard and treacherous road conditions, 200 young people made the journey to Hidden Acres Christian Center in Dayton, Iowa, to participate in CMML's second annual Midwest 26 Below retreat.

Like our 26 Below retreat in upstate New York, Micah Tuttle spoke on the theme "Don't Waste Your Life," contrasting biblical individuals who wasted their lives (Jonah, Esau, Lot) with those who did not (Daniel and Jacob). He concluded his series on Sunday with a powerful warning from the life of Peter on the steps that cause us to turn away from the Lord and how to avoid them.

Micah's messages were supplemented with breakout sessions by Eric Barton ("Serving the Lord in Secular Work"), Craig Fritchey ("Living a Missions-focused Life"), missionary Danny Johnson ("Serving the Lord While We're Young: Missions in Burundi") and Ben Kerns ("Leading Bible Studies and Accountability Groups"). The weekend also featured a missionary kids' panel with Danny Johnson, Elena Kerns, Emily Vargas, Christina Fleming and Javen and Cullen Tuttle. The panelists shared personal insight into the mission field and how growing up as "third culture kids" impacted their spiritual and personal lives.

It was amazing to see the Lord work throughout the weekend. One youth group brought refugees from the D. R. Congo who've not yet learned English. By the providence of God, they spoke the same dialect of Kirundi that missionary Danny Johnson speaks, and he was able to translate the messages for them! Please pray for these precious young people.

There were several attendees who were preparing for short-term missions trips. The CMML staff was able to help them prepare by sharing missionary contacts, training recommendations and basic tips for navigating a new culture. We are excited to see how the Lord will use these individuals as they serve Him abroad.

It was encouraging to see spiritual growth among the youth. We saw many youth leaders in prayer circles with their teens or counseling them one-on-one. Some youth expressed interest in personal discipleship while others reconfirmed their desire to serve the Lord abroad. Please pray for the believers in the local assemblies represented at this conference as they encourage and disciple these young people.

Craig Fritchey is CMML's security and conference coordinator.

