

# Missions

## **SOUTH AFRICA** **The Rainbow Nation**

**How to Encourage  
Missionaries**

**Northeast  
26 Below Report**

**Missionary Kids  
Interview**





# Thinking It Through

BY NEALE GOETSCH

## Present-Tense Faith

“Life is so daily!” Those four words spoken by one of my wife’s Bible college deans more than 50 years ago continue to challenge our faith walk. While the context of her counsel has been forgotten, perhaps she was commenting on the Apostle Paul’s words to the Galatian saints, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”<sup>1</sup> Charles Spurgeon wrote, “The two most important things in our holy religion are the life of faith and the walk of faith.”<sup>2</sup>

Last summer we had another bumper crop of blackberries. Picking and then bagging them for the freezer, I viewed my stained fingers as a joyful reminder to my heart: the blood of Jesus not only removes my sin but cleanses from sin’s stain. While I may remember, He sees me without any lingering spot or blemish, making present-tense, daily fellowship with Him possible. This puts a spring in my step and makes my heart bubble over with joy today!

The Gospel assures us that “believing,” we “have life in His name.”<sup>3</sup> “By grace . . . through faith” we have been saved; faithful “Abraham believed God,” and from his first faith step as he left Ur, God “credited it to him as righteousness.”<sup>4</sup> However, that faith response, initiated by God’s life-giving Spirit, was just the beginning—for Abraham, and for us! And, like toddlers just beginning to walk, we often totter, tumble, and fall. Peter, climbing overboard by faith and stepping onto the boisterous sea at Jesus’s invitation, only managed a few steps before his eyes were distracted and he began to sink. Like Peter, too often we hear Jesus’s words, “Why did you doubt?”<sup>5</sup> Our faith walk is to be present-tense—day by day, moment by moment.

Abraham’s faith walk wasn’t without its lapses. When he diverted his eyes from the Promiser to the parched soil of Canaan, he trod off to Egypt where he lied (not the only time) and was soundly rebuked. Impatience led him into even more trouble when, with Sarah, he tried to hurry God’s agenda. Yet while Abraham could never forget those lapses of faith, God’s gracious commentary on his faith walk was that Abraham walked

“by faith,” looking to God and accounting—present-tense faith—that God could be trusted to do everything He had promised.<sup>6</sup> All of that is underscored when we read, “After these things God tested Abraham.”<sup>7</sup> God didn’t test Abraham because He doubted Abraham’s faith. His faith had already been accredited to Abraham as righteousness! But God wanted Abraham’s faith to be present-tense—daily! So, as all the blessings of Abraham’s past faith in the promises and faithfulness of God were laid on the altar along with Isaac, Abraham’s faith was shown to be daily, present-tense faith! And God’s response that day on the mountain was, “now I know.”<sup>8</sup> That day, Abraham’s “now day,” he was walking by faith!

Looking back over missionary life, first in East Africa and then these past 45 years among internationals in England, I’m sure there are many times when heaven’s evaluation of my faith hasn’t been “now faith.” Often I’ve rehearsed God’s promises crying, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”<sup>9</sup> Our culture always focuses our attention on tomorrow; however, Jesus taught us to pray for “daily bread,” adding, “sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”<sup>10</sup> The following hymn can be our prayer:

Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;  
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin, just for today.  
Let me both diligently work and duly pray;  
Let me be kind in word and deed, just for today.  
Let me be slow to do my will, prompt to obey;  
Help me to sacrifice myself, just for today.  
Let me no idle word unthinking say;  
Set thou a seal upon my lips, just for today.  
Lord, for tomorrow and its needs I do not pray;  
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord, just for today.<sup>11</sup>

To which we might add, “Lord, keep my faith present-tense, today.” For, “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”<sup>12</sup> ■

*Neale Goetsch serves in “Other Overseas Service” (MPH Day 30).*

<sup>1</sup> Galatians 5:25, NIV; <sup>2</sup> C. H. Spurgeon, “September 18,” in *Morning & Evening* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 2002); <sup>3</sup> John 20:31; <sup>4</sup> Ephesians 2:8, Romans 4:3, NIV; <sup>5</sup> Matthew 14:31; <sup>6</sup> Hebrews 11:8–11, 17, 19; <sup>7</sup> Genesis 22:1; <sup>8</sup> Genesis 22:12; <sup>9</sup> Mark 9:24; <sup>10</sup> Matthew 6:11, 34; <sup>11</sup> “Just for Today” by Sybil Farish Partridge, 1880; <sup>12</sup> Hebrews 11:6

# SOUTH AFRICA

## A Look at the Rainbow Nation

BY SID HALSBAND



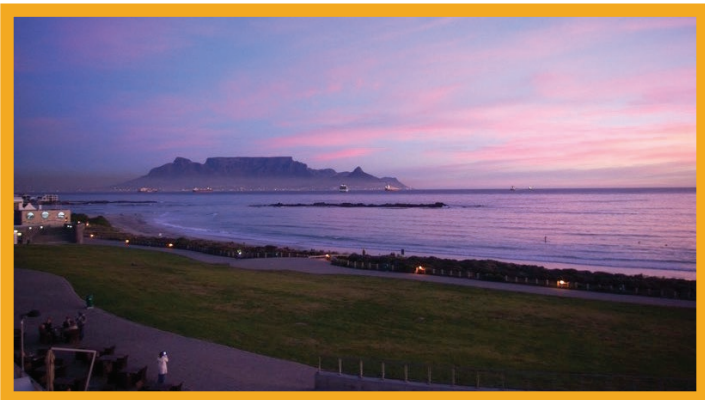
*Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. (Psalm 2:8)*

Because a summary is a huge task that could never accurately represent the Lord's rich work in South Africa, the following information offers a glimpse into the nation's history and a few missionaries' current ministries there. Despite this beloved country's tumultuous history, the effects of which continue to be felt, the Lord is using His people to achieve a great work for His Kingdom.

### YESTERDAY: A COLONIAL HISTORY

Much of South Africa's unique history begins at Cape Town, earning it the nickname "The Mother City." One significant milestone in South Africa's history happened by accident in 1647. Two sailors employed by the Dutch East India Company shipwrecked off the Cape's coast and survived on fresh water and meat that the native peoples provided. Eventually, the sailors found their way back to Holland and praised the Cape for its potential as a "warehouse and garden" suitable for supplying ships.<sup>1</sup>

A few years later, in 1652, Jan van Riebeeck established a supply station near Table Bay at the Cape of Good Hope, which would later become Cape Town, on behalf of the Dutch East India



**Above:** Much of South Africa's history begins at Table Bay and the surrounding city of Cape Town. **Right:** Many missionaries, like Charlotte Elliott, came to serve the Lord in the Rainbow Nation amid the tumult of apartheid.

Company. The presence of Riebeeck's station encouraged a wave of European settlers to come to the shores of South Africa.<sup>2</sup>

On July 9, 1737, the first evangelical missionary, George Schmidt, arrived in Cape Town.<sup>3</sup> The 26-year-old Moravian man had a burden to evangelize the Khoi Khoi tribe, which was also known by the derisive term the Hottentots. Many South Africans considered the Khoi Khoi to be mere animals without souls and beyond redemption, an idea that the Dutch Reformed Church, the official church of the Dutch settlers, influenced. Some literature from the time tells of Dutch colonists who, while on hunting trips, shot the Khoi Khoi as if they were game.<sup>4</sup>

However, George Schmidt saw the Khoi Khoi as souls for whom Christ died, and he taught them the Scriptures, as well as how to read and write. He founded the first Protestant mission in what is now called Genadendal, which is about 60 miles inland from the coast.<sup>5</sup> Eventually, five Khoi Khoi understood the Gospel and trusted Christ.<sup>6</sup> Then, Schmidt did what the Dutch Reformed Church considered heresy: he baptized those five believers by immersion while he was unordained. The Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa was outraged with Schmidt and opposed his ministry to the Khoi Khoi for seven years until the government forced him to return to his country.<sup>7</sup>

The first assembly workers arrived in South Africa around the year 1850, initially through business and later as full-time missionaries. Since that time, hundreds of assembly believers have come to South Africa and served the Lord. Many were engaged in medical work, orphanages, and printing presses, but all had the burning desire to fulfill the Great Commission of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.<sup>8</sup>

In 1931, the Evangelical Mission Press was started by William J. Coleridge as the Rand Mission Press in Johannesburg. In 1945, the press moved to Cape Town



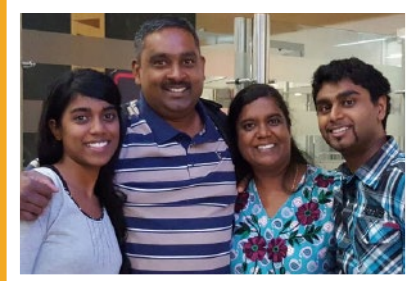




**Above:** The vibrant body of believers at the Hebron assembly in Cape Town engages its community through outreaches and youth work.



**Left and below:** In post-apartheid South Africa, the Lord raises up local laborers, like the Afrikas (left) and the Marmaans (below).



**Left:** Similar to the Afrikas and the Marmaans, Marlon and Judy Govender serve the Lord in their home country.



**Above:** The Hebron assembly is home to many missionaries, both foreign and native, including the Brown family. **Right:** The Lord recently brought the Baijal family to Cape Town to serve alongside those at the North Pine assembly.



and then to Bellville in 1960. Kenneth and Charlotte Elliott joined the work of the press in 1957. Throughout the years, a host of volunteers and commended workers have dedicated themselves to the work of the press, enabling it to print millions of tracts and countless Emmaus courses in more than 50 languages. Still today, this literature is shipped all over Africa free of charge.<sup>9,10</sup> In 1999, Kenneth Elliott was called home to be with the Lord after a battle with cancer. His widow, Charlotte, despite being 88 years old, still faithfully manages the day-to-day affairs of the press. However, the Evangelical Mission Press is in great need of someone called to join their work.

### TODAY: A HEALING NATION

South Africa is often called the “Rainbow Nation,” a term which was coined by the former archbishop Desmond Tutu and which neatly describes the country’s unique multiculturalism.<sup>11</sup> Unfortunately, today’s South Africa is still out of step with much of the world when it comes to race. Visitors to South Africa are often intrigued by the common practice of dividing people into the categories of white, Coloured (mixed race), or black. Even though the days of apartheid are over, skin color and race lies just underneath the surface of the culture. For example, individuals cannot apply for certain jobs unless they identify with one of the established racial groups.

In an effort to right the wrongs of the past, the post-apartheid government has adopted policies and programs that favor blacks over whites. The sins of the apartheid government are in many ways being reversed on a generation that was not even born during the social struggles of 1994 and before. As a result, the nation that these white young people call home is disenfranchising them.<sup>12</sup>

Poverty, unemployment, crime, and corruption are rife in South Africa, and all of them present an enormous challenge, as well as opportunities, to the assemblies in the country. Unfortunately, the shortage of qualified spiritual leaders and shepherds leaves many of the local churches struggling. In the Cape peninsula, aging believers populate most of the assemblies, and a high number of these church bodies do not have any young families. For some reason, a whole generation of believers seems to be absent.

Today, fewer foreign missionaries serve in South Africa than in the past. The work of evangelism is by no means complete, and a huge need for missionary enterprise remains. Still, many local missionaries faithfully serve the Lord, often in smaller farming districts through children's work, cottage meetings, and assembly ministry. Recently, the Lord burdened three local couples to serve Him, and their home assemblies have since commended them to the work. Two of the couples are starting in areas where no assemblies exist—Magnus and Sarina Afrika serve in Mossel Bay and Adrian and Wendy Maarman in Springbok. The third couple, Marlon and Judy Govender work in Pretoria with Emmaus International.

Karen and I are part of the Hebron assembly of believers, located in the northern suburbs of Cape Town. Approximately 100 active believers from various walks of life and ethnic backgrounds form the group. The assembly holds two outreaches into the poor communities of Fisantekraal and Klipheuwel and hosts youth programs inside the hall.

Hebron assembly is also home to Rodney and Joy Brown, who were commended to Cape Town in 2001 from Northern Ireland. Initially, they labored with the Evangelical Mission Press, but in 2012, they felt led to be more involved in open-air work and street evangelism along with radio work and itinerant preaching. Not long ago, Alasdair and Andrea Baijal from Scotland came to Cape Town with a burden to teach the Word and preach the Gospel alongside the North Pine assembly. Another couple from America is praying about coming here as well.

Further north, Dr. Terry and Jane Gilpin (MPH Day 3) labor in the KwaZulu-Natal province. Terry retired from the Murchison Hospital a number of years ago, and now he looks after the medical needs of a palliative care center and step-down unit in Port Shepstone. This work provides an outlet for Terry's medical interests and opportunities for witnessing to patients, many of whom suffer from terminal cancer or other diseases. Both Terry and Jane lead home Bible studies and are excited to see the number of attendees gradually increase. Some of those attending do not know the Lord as their Savior, so these studies serve as opportunities for gospel outreach as well as biblical teaching.



**Left:** In northern South Africa, the Gilpins reach the KwaZulu-Natal province through medical assistance and home Bible studies. **Right:** Despite hardships and losses, the missionaries in South Africa, like Terry Barham, faithfully spread the Gospel each day.

Paul and Dorothy Grieve, the Gilpin's coworkers who come from Northern Ireland, share in these and other opportunities among both young and old. Also, two African brethren, Benedict and Jabulani, have a sound knowledge of the Scriptures and are able to minister God's Word commendably. Benedict is also responsible for organizing and running camps for boys, girls, women, and men at different times during the year.

After Terry and Ray Barham served in Zambia for 26 years and in Pakistan for four years, the Lord led them to South Africa in 2011. Sadly, Ray passed away in February 2014, but the Lord encouraged Terry (MPH Day 3) to continue working with Emmaus International in Johannesburg. She works with Judy and Marlon Govender to grade the many English courses that flood the mailbox. Although a majority of the participants are prisoners, an increasing number of private students also complete of the courses.



## TOMORROW: A LAND OF CHANGE

South Africa has a rich history of men and women who have answered God's call to make the Gospel known. However, the spiritual needs of the present and the future are great in the country. The future of the assembly work in South Africa has much potential, yet the primary need is both foreign and local laborers with hearts and zeal for evangelism.

South Africa's future is not in the hands of the politicians. It is in the hands of those who know the truth—the truth that sets men, women, boys, and girls free from the shackles of sin. Positive changes in the country only come as lives are changed. May we be faithful in fulfilling the Lord's command, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Luke 10:2, KJV) ■



*Sid Halsband and his wife, Karen, are commended by Shoreacres Bible Chapel in Burlington, Ontario, and have been involved in evangelistic and shepherding work in Botswana and South Africa since 1991.*

<sup>1</sup> Wilmot, Alexander, and John Centlivres Chase. *History of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope: From Its Discovery to the Year 1918*. Claremont, South Africa: David Philip Publishers, 2010. <sup>2</sup> Jones, Jim. "African History Timeline: Europeans in 19th Century South Africa," *West Chester University*. n.d. [courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his311/timeline/t-19saf.htm](https://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his311/timeline/t-19saf.htm). <sup>3</sup> Dreisbach, Dr. John. "George Schmidt: First Protestant Missionary to Africa." *GFA Missions*. May 25, 1998. [www.gfamissions.org/pages/learn-and-promote/detail/3/60/](http://www.gfamissions.org/pages/learn-and-promote/detail/3/60/). <sup>4</sup> South African History Online. "George Schmidt." *South African History Online*. February 17, 2011. [www.sahistory.org.za/people/georg-schmidt](http://www.sahistory.org.za/people/georg-schmidt). <sup>5</sup> Driesbach, "George Schmidt." <sup>6</sup> Driesbach, "George Schmidt." <sup>7</sup> Driesbach, "George Schmidt." <sup>8</sup> W. T. Stunt et al. *Turning the World Upside Down: A Century of Missionary Endeavor*. Echoes of Service. Eastbourne, ENG: Upperton Press, 1972, 451. <sup>9</sup> Stunt et al. *Turning the World Upside Down*, 452. <sup>10</sup> Tattford, Frederick A. *Light Over the Dark Continent*. Vol. 6 of *That the World May Know*. Bath, UK: Echoes Publications, 1984, 246–50. <sup>11</sup> Wikipedia. "Rainbow nation." Last edited on November 28, 2017. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow\\_nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rainbow_nation). <sup>12</sup> Malala, Justice. "Viewpoint: Does Race Matter in South Africa?" *BBC News Service* (website). *The BBC*, August 29, 2012. [www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-19402353](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-19402353).



# Encourage a Missionary

BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Quite often, the CMML staff is asked, “How can I encourage a missionary?” To answer this, we went right to the source—the missionaries! From visits to simple emails, missionaries cite communication as the best way to encourage them. One worker shared how encouraged he was when he received the simple reply, “We’re praying for you,” in response to his email prayer letter. We pray that the following examples of practical ways missionaries have been encouraged will inspire you to personally engage them.

## Tanzania | GINA & LUKE JOHNSON

We have received small packages of goodies (e.g. Jell-O, chocolate chips, flavored coffee, and coloring books) that we cannot find here. My children have received cards and letters from other kids their age, and that is encouraging to them.



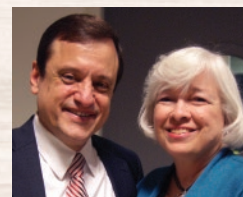
## France | MAUREEN & COLIN CROW

A long-term friend “back home,” a former colleague from my teaching days, not only emails me (Maureen) quite often, but, on special occasions such as my birthday and Christmas, sends me wonderful packages with all sorts of lovely things such as pretty tops and interesting books.



## Netherlands | DR. TOM & PATTI MARINELLO

One particular assembly always sends an email when they’ve sent a gift for us to CMML. The email tells us the gift has been sent, but it also tells us a bit of the ongoing ministries and Bible studies/preaching at the assembly. The gift helps to keep us here in Europe; the information helps us to keep in touch.



## Jamaica | MELINDA & MIKE DILIONE

We had the privilege of having some close friends and family visit us while serving in Jamaica. Flights can be purchased for reasonable prices to our country of service, which we know isn’t the case for all missionaries. While receiving regular text messages and emails encouraged us greatly, nothing compared to when we had visitors in our home who could really experience the ministry hands-on. Having someone take the time to come and walk alongside you in the work brings great joy. It encouraged us to know there are believers who will return home truly understanding life on the mission field and how to pray for us, as well as pass along this information to others back home.





## Mexico | CABE & CHRISTINE PILLETTE

Our kids are ecstatic when they receive letters in the mail for their birthdays, as well as emails. It is always a huge highlight for them to be remembered with such kindness. We feel so loved by many who faithfully write notes, send stickers, and cards to all the missionary kids. It may seem like a small thing, but it means so very much to our kids. Thank you for remembering!



## Chile | DAVID & ELIZABETH ROA

We were greatly encouraged by the visit of two people from TeamWorkers Abroad, who came to help us build a new gathering place. Knowing that we are being prayed for is always a huge encouragement—it makes us feel that we are not alone.



## Peru | NICOLE & WILSER CACHO-HANSEN

We were sent packages with things for our baby by individuals and our commending assembly. A lady recently asked us for information about our ministry since her church had prayerfully considered praying for us for a month, even though we didn't really know them. It happened to be the month my husband and three other believers were in a bad car accident but came out alive with very minor wounds and bruises. After it happened I knew why God had put it on their hearts to pray for us and I was encouraged by the Lord's care.



## Peru | JANETTE & JOHN HOCKING

Many times over the years we received notes or emails asking for things to pray for. Questions about the ministry, our family, our health, or any pressing needs show us that people are genuinely interested in the work and in us. Some people pray for specific needs and then ask how the Lord answered their prayers. Sometimes the answers came when they were praying, and it is a delight for them to share in this blessing.



## Uruguay | DIRK & MILCA HINNENTHAL

We have received birthday greetings for our children, from adults and children alike, and that adds a blessing to those days. Personally, I was encouraged when an email came in from a brother with whom I had not been previously acquainted. He stated that he had been praying for us. That way we can put a name to the fact that people are supporting us in prayer. When talking to our children, I have often point out that there are believers who pray for us and lend us help. But to receive some personal news is always a special treat, and God shows Himself to the children in these ways too. With this comes a suggestion: If you decide to send a letter to our assembly (it gathers right at our home in Uruguay) there will be dozens of children at our Sunday school who will be fascinated! ■





# May We Introduce

## Rich & Karen Brown

*Serving in Special Areas*



### Karen's Testimony

My parents accepted Christ as their Savior shortly before I was born, so I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home. At the age of four, two life-changing things happened. First, I came to understand and believe in the work of Christ. As time went on I learned more and more about God's amazing grace to me and all the blessings I have in Christ. Second, my parents decided to quit their jobs, sell their lake-side home, and become missionaries. They eventually trained missionaries with New Tribes Mission (now known as Ethnos360) in Wisconsin. It was there that I was challenged to be a missionary and go share the Good News with a people who had never heard it before. When I was 16, I went to Papua New Guinea for a short-term missions trip. That trip further confirmed to me that this was something God wanted for me. After graduating from high school, I attended Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Waukesha, Wisconsin, for two years. Afterward, I continued with the two years of missionary training, intending to serve overseas as a single person, if necessary.

### Rich's Testimony

Only a year after I was born in rural Vermont, my parents came to Christ. Through our nightly devotions together, I came to a saving knowledge of Jesus at age five. My parents had huge hearts for the unreached people groups of this world. I would often hear the Romans 10:14 passage, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" This reality left an indelible mark on my life. It was later on, while I was at Ethnos360 Bible Institute in Jackson, Michigan, that I learned how to walk with the Lord in His strength and not my own. After I spent two years there, the Lord again renewed my

heart for reaching unreached people groups while I served as a short-term missionary in Papua New Guinea for one year. I continued missionary training when I returned to the States. I was also ready to go as a single person, but thankfully the Lord had a better plan for me.

### Together

The Lord directed our paths to cross while we were in missionary training. We met while Rich was in Wisconsin at the missions training institute Karen's folks were a part of, and we were married soon after in July 1997. We had our first of three daughters, Atalee, near the end of training in 1999. The Lord led us to serve in Asia-Pacific, and we left for the field in May 2001. Two months after starting national language study, our daughter Alyssa was born. After reaching fluency, our daughter Ashlynn was born in 2003. We then served in a missionary support role until 2005 when we were invited to join a newer work among an unreached people group called the Moi. It was there, among the Moi people, that we lived and served for the next 10 years planting churches. We, along with our coworkers, did language and culture study, Bible translation, literacy, development of Bible teaching material, evangelism, and discipleship, as well as holistic development. The once nonexistent Moi church eventually grew to more than 200 believers. Finally, in September 2015, three men were recognized as the first elders of the Moi church. They, along with a number of Bible teachers, have full responsibility of caring for the Moi church, while our coworkers finish up the remaining portions of the New Testament.

We now help facilitate church-planting work among other unreached people groups in Asia-Pacific, many of whom are in "creative access" areas. ■



# NORTHEAST 26 Below GOD'S PATH FOR YOU



BY CRAIG FRITCHEY



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” These verses, Proverbs 3:5–6, were the focus for this year’s Northeast 26 Below: High School, College, and Career Winter Retreat.

In total, 156 young people traveled to Camp-of-the-Woods in Speculator, New York, for CMML’s annual winter retreat. This year’s speaker was Jonathan Sonoda, who recently completed seven years of missionary service in the Middle East.

Jonathan’s theme was “God’s Path for You” and he divided his theme verses, Proverbs 3:5–6, into three sections: “Trust,” “Know,” and “Peace.” Jonathan challenged us to consider whether we really trust the Lord in every area of our lives. He asked how well we know the Lord who saved us and reminded us that walking God’s path for us is primarily about walking that path *with* Him. Finally, He encouraged us to rest in the promise that, when we trust and know the Lord, He *will* make our paths straight as we read His Word, pray, seek wise counsel, and biblically respond to the circumstances He brings our way.

One attendee shared, “I appreciated how [Jonathan] took a verse I had memorized as a little kid and, instead of glossing over it, took the time to break down its meaning so that we could actually apply it to our lives. It was a refreshing change to spend the whole weekend thinking about one [Scripture passage].” We thank the Lord that the Word of God is penetrating the hearts of young people!

Along with Jonathan’s teaching, attendees chose from three breakout sessions: “Discipleship” (led by Jonny Loveless from Emmaus International), “Missions Meets Real-Life Issues” (led by Mike Dilione, *Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 17) and “Serving the Lord in College” (co-led by Christina Fleming from Emmaus Bible College and Craig Fritchey from CMML). Each session was designed to address issues young people face and share tools that can help them handle difficult situations in a way that honors the Lord.

Saturday evening included an insightful “missionary kid” panel discussion with Ruth Sonoda, Christina Fleming, and Lynda Hinnenthal, and a question and answer time with Jonathan and Ruth Sonoda. These opportunities to get to know missionaries and missionary kids are always a highlight of 26 Below.

Please pray for the young people who attended this year’s retreat. Pray that they would remember, apply, and share the spiritual principles taught from Proverbs 3:5–6. Pray that the concepts shared in the breakout sessions would help them as they navigate living for Christ in a dark world.

Next year’s retreat is scheduled for January 18–20, 2019, with Nate Bramsen. We hope to see you there! ■







Micah (16), Carli (14), Anna (7), and Conner (19)

## Interview with the Ferguson siblings—Day 14, Moldova

BY SARAH DUNLAP

Recently, we caught up with the Ferguson kids while they were on their first furlough since moving to Moldova in 2014 with their parents. As relatively new MKs, Conner, Micah, Carli, and Anna are still adjusting to the cultural differences between the United States and Moldova. While learning a new language and making friends is challenging, the siblings' desire to be examples of Christian young people to their peers motivates their daily lives. Please pray for Micah, Carli, and Anna as they continue with their home schooling, and pray for Conner as he seeks the Lord's will for his life now, having graduated from high school.

### Can you tell me about the area where you live?

**Conner:** We live in Moldova. It is the poorest country in Europe; it's very impoverished. We live in a more rural area, in a tiny village. It's about 3,000 people, and [there's] a lot of farmland.

**Micah:** There's about six months of cold and six months of heat, so it's like 50/50.

**Carli:** We're landlocked.

### Do you feel more comfortable in Moldova or the US?

**Conner:** We call Moldova home, but we're more comfortable in the States, for sure.

### Do you get to come back to the States often?

**Carli:** This is the first time.

**Micah:** We'll be here for four months total.

### Do you speak any languages other than English?

**Conner:** We're learning the language, which is Romanian. It's going OK; it has its challenges.

### What kind of ministry are your parents involved in? Do you get to help with it?

**Conner:** My father has been involved in ministry for a long time. His profession is a physical therapist, so that was our ministry focus.

**Micah:** But we also did a youth group for the teens, and my dad led that. That was a really prosperous ministry as well.

**Conner:** We help out where we can.

**Micah:** My main focus was more with the teens, trying to be an example to them of what a Christian teen looks like because there are none outside of our family, or there wasn't. But Conner and I help out with camps in the summer.

### Any favorite or unusual Moldovan foods?

**Carli:** Stuffed peppers is one of their favorites; it's one thing that they eat a lot.

**Conner:** There's nothing too unusual, thankfully.

**Micah:** If you go over to someone's house, one thing that they will always have on their table is called *sarmale*, and it's basically like rice and some sort of meat wrapped in grape leaves or something. It's interesting, but it's good.

**Carli:** They say their table is not complete without it!

**Anna:** *Mamaliga*. It's kind of like corn bread, but you have a chicken sauce. And you put it on it, so that's good.

**Conner:** It's a staple, but it's not exactly our favorite.

### Tell me about your friends. Are most of them Moldovan? Do you have any MK friends?

**Conner:** We have a few missionary friends, but—

**Micah:** They're older, typically.

**Conner:** Yeah, they're not exactly our age. But, as far as those who are our ages, there are many Moldovans.

### Do any of them speak English?

**Anna:** Well, yeah.

**Conner:** A very small handful of them do.

**Micah:** And they don't live near us; we only see them on rare occasions. But there are some.

### Do you go to school or are you home-schooled?

**Conner and Micah:** Home-schooled.

**Conner:** I've graduated.

**Carli:** I'm going into ninth.

**Micah:** And I'm going into an 11th/12th mix.

**Anna:** First grade! Almost.



### Do you have any hobbies? Play any sports?

**Micah:** Not much sports. There's not a lot of equipment or anything. But we have played some volleyball and ping-pong.

**Conner:** And soccer. Lots of soccer.

**Micah:** And I do a lot of writing. I have a blog and stuff.

**Conner:** I enjoy piano a lot.

**Carli:** I like arts and crafts.

**Conner:** She's very artistic.

### What is the best part about being an MK?

**Carli:** Going back!

**Micah:** You get to see the world, and you learn to rely on God in a new and special way. It's not like in America where everything is always handed to you on a golden platter. It's more difficult, and you actually have to learn what it means to not be able to do something for yourself. And see that if God doesn't do this, it won't happen.

### What is the hardest part of being a missionary kid?

**Conner:** I think the hardest part has to be the relationships. Not being able to speak the language, it's hard for us to form good relationships. We've been forced to [rely on] our family, which is great, but we also need external relationships. We don't get that as much as if we were in America.

**Micah:** Also, there's a lot of opportunities that get passed up. If we want to do a summer job, that doesn't happen—there's no employment in Moldova, and even if there were, there wouldn't be enough money there for it to be worth it. We don't have libraries [or] sports gyms; there's just not that sort of thing, so there's a lot of those opportunities that are lacking.

### What do you want to be when you're older and where do you want to live?

**Conner:** I'm very open to missions, I think. Just the way that God has made me, the way He has designed me, I'd be very

open to serving Him in the missions field. This is a great experience to be able to see all this firsthand.

**Micah:** I'm not sure. I want to go to Emmaus, but I'm not sure what I want to study. I'm open to being a missionary—it's definitely what I would want to do—but I'm not sure that I have felt called there as an individual as of yet.

**Carli:** I have no idea.

**Anna:** The same: don't know!

### Do you have any prayer requests?

**Conner:** I think just wisdom for the future—understanding what God's will is.

**Micah:** A reliance on God to stop trying to do things in our own power. It's really difficult. ■

## Learn about the Moldova!

- Moldova is a little larger than Maryland.



- Surrounded by Ukraine from the northwest to the south-east and Romania from the west to the south, Moldova is a landlocked country.

- It is the poorest country in Europe, and it still struggles with the lingering effects of communism.

- Moldova is an agricultural nation, mainly producing fruits, vegetables, wine, and tobacco.

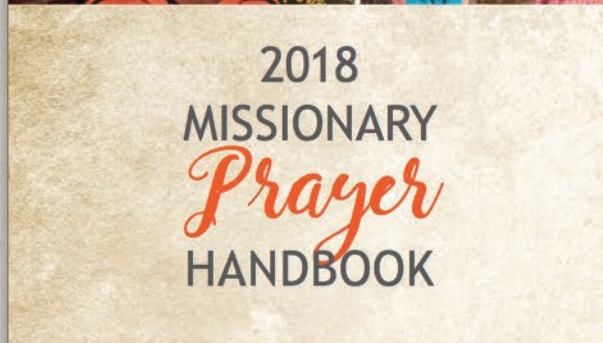
- The Ferguson kids are the only MKs from Moldova listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*.





# 2018 MISSIONARY PRAYER HANDBOOK

ORDER TODAY



The 2018 *Missionary Prayer Handbook* features 49 new missionaries, two new country listings, and a new missionary section.

To facilitate prayer and communication, this vital tool lists 700 missionaries commended from assemblies in the US and Canada and includes a description of their ministries and contact information.

## CANADA

Contact Gospel Folio Press for all Canadian orders

Credit Card:

- Visit [www.GospelFolio.com/mp](http://www.GospelFolio.com/mp)
- Call 800-952-2382

**Single Copies:** \$8.00 each (plus shipping)

**Ten Pack:** \$70.00 (plus shipping)

## UNITED STATES

Contact CMML for all US orders

Credit Card:

- Visit [www.CMML.us/2018mph](http://www.CMML.us/2018mph)
- Call 732-449-8880

Check:

- Make check payable to "CMML, Inc."
- Mail order form to

**CMML; PO Box 13; Spring Lake, NJ 07762**

**1-9 copies:** \$6.00 each (includes shipping)

**10-24 copies:** \$5.50 each (includes shipping)

**25+ copies:** \$5.00 each (includes shipping)

### US Only 2018 Missionary Prayer Handbook Order Form

(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Handbooks \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MM



# May We Introduce

## John & Krista Poidevin

*Serving in Tanzania*



### John's Testimony

The middle son of Bruce and Marilyn Poidevin (*Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 5*), I was born in Zambia and raised in a Christian home. I was saved during one of our family's furloughs to Canada. After a gospel meeting, I grappled with how to get saved and finally came to the end of myself and simply surrendered and trusted in what Christ had done for me. As I grew older, God encouraged my walk with Him through the influence of various Christians and life at two Christian boarding schools (Sakeji in Zambia and Rift Valley Academy in Kenya). Upon returning to Canada to study electronics, I had the privilege of helping and growing in my local assembly and in college and university Christian clubs.

### Krista's Testimony

I was raised in a Christian family in rural Ontario, surrounded by believers and immersed in the church. At a very young age I made a profession of faith while at my babysitter's house, but I struggled for years questioning my salvation because I could not remember the occasion. I was baptized at age 12 and continued to live for Christ and serve in the assembly, while still battling doubts. Eventually, I realized that it did not matter what had happened at age four, what matters is that I trust in the Lord Jesus who paid the price for my sins and redeemed my soul. "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." (1 John 5:13)

In retrospect, I can see that throughout these years God was growing my faith while also stirring my desire to serve Him as a missionary. In high school, I experienced my first short-term missions trip on a building team to Haiti. After fin-

ishing high school, I attended New Brunswick Bible Institute for a year and then returned to Ontario to earn my nursing degree, all while planning to work overseas on the mission field.

### Together

We met and served together through the Christian Fellowship group at Conestoga College. As our friendship developed, God uniquely blessed it by orchestrating to have Krista live with John's parents in Zambia while doing an international nursing placement. We were engaged a year later, four years after first meeting, and in July 2008 we were united in marriage as well as in our desire to serve on the foreign mission field.

God had us begin our married life in Kitchener, Ontario, eventually being involved in the ministry MoveIn while John worked as a biomedical technologist and Krista worked as a nurse. (MoveIn is a movement of Christians who prayerfully move in among the unreached, urban poor.) After our third child was born, God led us to train at Emanate with Ethnos Canada (formerly New Tribes Mission). During our 18 months at Emanate, God redirected us from the intention of doing medical missions to further training in linguistics with a desire to do Bible translation and church planting. Throughout our training, we continued to pray for His clear leading and eventually felt called to serve in Tanzania. In January 2018, we, along with our children, Titus (7), Moriah (5), and Silas (3), began culture and language study in Dar Es Salaam. With a vision to see an indigenous church established, our desire is to be involved in a church-planting and Bible translation team in one of the least reached people groups of Tanzania. ■



# May We Introduce

## Bard & Pam Pillette

*Serving in Cross-cultural Ministries in the US*



### Bard's Testimony

I grew up in Oregon and on the island of Guam, where my parents were schoolteachers. They were atheists who had never gone to church, neither as children nor as adults. Thus, as a freshman at the University of Oregon, I was without moral direction, and my life was spiraling out of control. It seemed out of nowhere that a fellow student in the same fraternity as I came to my room and talked to me about receiving forgiveness for the bad things I had done and about having a new beginning by believing that Christ had died to pay my debt. When he left my room, as best I knew how, I prayed for the first time in my life and asked Christ to take over my life and to give me direction. Because I had flunked out of college, I returned to Guam to work, surf, and party, but I could no longer fit back into my former life. I had truly been changed. I returned to the university, got involved in a student Bible study, and was on my way to a new way of living.

### Pam's Testimony

I did not grow up in a Christian family. In my junior year of college I began to feel that I had ruined my life by the choices I made and did not know where to look for answers. While studying for an English literature final, my friend used a T. S. Eliot poem to explain that real meaning in life was found in knowing the God of the universe personally. For the first time, I heard of Christ's love and death on the cross for me and that by receiving Him, I had forgiveness for my sins and eternal life.

Her message struck me as the truth, and I asked Christ to forgive me and change me. My life was transformed, and I have never looked back.

### Together

I met Pam through mutual Christian friends at the University of Oregon. She had become a Christian a month earlier. I was immediately attracted to her incredible thankfulness and joy at finding forgiveness in Christ and freedom from her former life. We married a year and a half later and began seeking a place to study the Bible. I studied at Western Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary. While at Believer's Chapel in Dallas, we heard a message that God used to cause us to consider missions work. We then became involved in a new church starting in McKinney, Texas. After serving at McKinney Bible Chapel for four years, we were commended to the work in Mexico where I taught in a Bible school and became involved in church planting in five different cities.

In 1994 we moved to Oregon to start Spanish-speaking assemblies. We established works in Medford and Grants Pass with the help of Alejandro and Adriana Chavez, a couple who received Christ in the assembly we helped begin in Irapuato, Mexico. We are currently involved in evangelizing and planting a church in an area that includes four small towns close together on the coast of Southern Oregon and Northern California. ■

## Pray For Missionary Kids!

Did you know that 326 children are listed in the 2018 *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.