

Missions

Spiritual Promise
in Belize

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Guest Home

God's Work in
Paraguay

Assembly Care
Health Line





Thinking It Through

BY PHILIP BOOM

Humble Roots

“For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.” (1 Corinthians 1:26)

All of us have hobbies, professions, or ministries for which we have a special passion. We are equipped by God with differing abilities and interests and uniquely gifted by Him for the work we are called to do. Praise God for the variety of gifts distributed throughout the body of Christ and for the many ways they are used around the world! Men and women in business, entrepreneurs, mission leaders, youth workers, local assembly elders—all work together to glorify God through their personal calling. Have you paused lately to “consider your calling”?

The idea of calling has many shades of meaning, including the implication of a purpose and direction for the work in which we are engaged. Let’s consider several elements of preparation and a common thread among them: a mindset of humility.

Your credentials

Let’s start by considering the necessary credentials for engaging in the work of God. There are requirements for any role we aspire to fill, and it’s no different when it comes to our spiritual calling. The apostle Paul challenged the church at Corinth to reflect on where they came from and what they brought to the table. There might have been a few notable individuals who turned to the Lord in early times, but the majority did not have distinguished résumés for their new calling.

God has certainly not called us as foolish people nor to be unwise in our stewardship of His work. But God uses foolish concepts and ways of thinking to affirm His work. According to this section of Scripture, the wisdom of God is quite different than the secular mindset; the cross is a foolish idea, a humbling proposition. However, it is the pathway to God and a vital element of preparation for service.

Christ set aside His glory, including all His wisdom, might, and nobility. “He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8) If we aspire to do great things for God, we must set aside our pride and be willing to do the difficult jobs. Even our Lord washed dirty feet!

Your approach

Whether in business, ministry, or in the local assembly, we will eventually run into intolerable people. Most times though, we need only to look in the mirror to see the real problem.

Paul, now in prison for his faithful ministry, urges the Ephesians to walk worthy of their calling (Ephesians 4:1). He goes on to cite several key requirements for a worthy walk—humility, gentleness, patience, and tolerance for one another in love. All these are relational qualities. We are to prize and preserve unity, a spiritual and peaceful bond among believers that is foreign to everyday secular culture.

Unity seems to have been a common concern in the early church era: the saints at Corinth were exhorted not to fall into division (1 Corinthians 1:10), sisters in Philippi were urged to live in harmony in the Lord (Philippians 4:2), and the Ephesians were implored to remember that there is only one body (Ephesians 4:4). James cites the roots of personal conflicts, noting that selfish ambition is at the source. The antidote provided is humility in the presence of the Lord (James 4:10). Things have not changed in our time of course, and we desperately need these reminders as we work together for the ultimate glory of God in our ministries.

The end game

The humility of the cross stands against an age in which honor, power, and patronage were deeply rooted in the culture of the day—whether Jewish or Greek. These concepts of humility were despised in historical society and mostly still are today.

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.” (James 3:13) God has called us to a noble work—teaching and spreading the Word of God. You are not foolish because you have thrown your lot in with this effort! ■

Philip Boom is the president of Emmaus Bible College.

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FRONT COVER: Sean O’Byrne—Boats in the Caribbean Sea BACK COVER: Ethan Biswurm—Hope Falls in the Adirondack Mountains



A COUNTRY OF SPIRITUAL PROMISE

BY SEAN & VERA O'BYRNE

“You better Belize it!” This popular saying, often written on T-shirts, refers to the beauty of this warm and friendly Caribbean nation. Through short-term ministry trips over the past 13 years, the Lord has given us a deep appreciation for the Belizean people. As of this year, we are now privileged to serve among them full-time. Let us introduce our new home to you!

Welcome to Belize

On the Caribbean coast of northern Central America, Belize shares a border with Mexico on the north and Guatemala on the west and south. Just offshore in the Caribbean Sea, the world's second-longest barrier reef, dotted with hundreds of low-lying islands called cays, hosts rich marine life. Belizean jungles are home to fierce jaguars and Mayan ruins with towering pyramids. Although the country is slightly larger than New Jersey, Belize's climate, rich jungle, and marine biodiversity make it a popular tourist destination. But sadly, the rugged geography has also made the country's coastline and jungle attractive to drug smugglers who use it as a gateway into Mexico.

The people and history of Belize is rich and diverse. According to *The World Factbook* there are about 353,858 souls in Belize.¹ English is the official language, but Belizeans also speak Belize Kriol and many speak Spanish. Historically Catholic, Belize has seen a surge in Protestant churches in recent decades. Other religions and cults are also present and very active. Although the country has suffered from a persistent scourge of violent crime, mostly connected with gangs and drugs, in my experience Belize is more peaceful compared to some of its Central American neighbors.

Assemblies working together

The assembly work in Belize began around 1950 when Jamaican missionaries Roy Campbell and Sydney Sualender began gospel work, which resulted in many saved and baptized. Harold Wildish, also from Jamaica, made several visits to conduct gospel campaigns. Later, Ralph and Gladys Clark (Winnipeg, Canada) and others came to assist. In 1954, at the new Grace Chapel in Belize City, the first classes commenced in what would become

¹“The World Factbook: Belize.” Central Intelligence Agency. June 26, 2017. www.CIA.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bh.html.



From top: Sean and Vera O'Byrne in Belize; Boat in the Caribbean Sea; Official opening of the Grace Primary School extension; GPS students.



From top: Easter conference at Grace Chapel in Belize City; Boys at a detention center receiving Scripture portions from the eTeam workers; Vera coloring with young friends; A work team in 2006 doing landscape and construction work at the new property.

Grace Primary School (GPS). Ever since, GPS has been a vital ministry of the assemblies and has provided quality Christian education to countless Belizeans. Today, GPS has approximately 400 students. A GPS extension just opened in another area of Belize City. This new secondary school, funded mostly through government grants, is the fruit of the tireless efforts of Brenda Kidd of Berea Bible Chapel in Belize City, the GPS team, and many others.

Today, there are eight assemblies in Belize, including the newly planted Western Paradise Bible Chapel (WPBC) where we minister. There are three assemblies in the south, one of which is Spanish-speaking, three in Belize City, and two others in nearby villages. Although some of the meetings struggle, there is deep unity and cooperation between them. Highlights each year are the camps, the ladies' retreat, and the Easter conference.

Our call to Belize

My connection to the shores of Belize began in 2004. Dr. Ted Kay (former vice president of MSC Canada) invited me to accompany him and two other men on a ministry trip to Belize. The team of four visited assemblies and ministered in Belize City, Burrell Boom, and the valley in the south, and went as far north as Corazal Town to visit a retired missionary. At that time, a small outreach was also taking root in Eight Miles Community (now called Western Paradise), just outside Belize City. I was overwhelmed by a number of first impressions: the extreme heat and humidity, the warm hospitality and fellowship, and the tremendous need for reinforcements and the Gospel. On one of our later trips I was astonished at the enthusiastic reception of the Gospel. While handing out tracts in the city, a bus stopped in the middle of busy traffic, all the windows opened, and hands stretched out reaching for the tracts being offered! It was during that trip that God gave me a burden for Belize.

Since that initial visit in 2004, we led one or two teams per year to Belize. Usually, these teams consisted of 12 people, and we stayed for two weeks. There were work teams, youth teams, medical missions, sports camps, and gospel campaigns. The last three teams were organized with eTeams, an MSC short-term missions ministry. The eTeams trips are like minischools of evangelism. Working with the assemblies, the teams engage in evangelism on the streets, at bus terminals, in parks, and door-to-door. Most encouraging has been the opportunity to visit many schools and youth hostels to present the Gospel. (Visit eTeams.ca for more information.)

Over the years, my wife, Vera, and I shared a burden for the people of Belize. After many return visits, the Lord led us in January of this year to return as full-time missionaries.

The early work at Eight Miles

Years ago, Sister Barrows, a widow who recently passed away, donated a plot of land with a house on it for a new work in Western Paradise. The house sat on a swampy lot in the small but growing community just outside of Belize City. Quite depressed socially and economically, the community consists mostly of poor and broken homes. Beginning in 2006, our first few teams focused on renovating the little house into a chapel and landscaping the property. Then, teams of mostly youth helped the ongoing outreach there with vacation Bible schools and sports camps. For years,

Grace Chapel held gospel meetings there every Sunday afternoon. The most recent eTeams group visited the entire community door-to-door and held special gospel meetings. Finally, in 2016, Western Paradise Bible Chapel (WPBC) began breaking bread each Lord's Day.



Top: Tim Hood of eTeams sharing with students in Belize City. **Bottom (L-R):** eTeams evangelism and eTeams outreach and literature distribution in Belize City.

Western Paradise Bible Chapel today

WPBC is still a pioneer work in many ways. Presently, we are just two couples at the Lord's Supper with the occasional visitor. However, children come out in droves and the adult class grows slowly. The Lord has been blessing in many ways with small signs of genuine growth.

Allan and Olive Leslie, local believers from nearby Hattieville, have been instrumental in the work at WPBC. Allan was an elder at Grace Chapel, and they opened their home to many teams over the years. Since our arrival, we have worked closely with them to provide leadership and develop outreach and teaching. Allan continues to develop the church property. Presently, there is a great need for upgrades for Sunday school rooms and more washrooms. Most of all, there is the need for outreach, visiting, encouraging, and teaching.

Vera has been especially active with the ladies' and children's ministries. On Saturdays, she has a club called "Skip a Beat for Jesus." Olive and Vera share responsibilities in the growing Sunday school. Belize has a very young population, and its youth is its greatest asset. Recently, Vera wrote about these children:

We had a sleepover for the girls. I bought a pool for them to cool off in, and the house was full of laughter and fun.

Most of them never get away from their poor community and rarely ever get to splash and have fun. Despite their happy faces and fresh clothes, most are from very broken homes in grinding poverty, abuse, and danger. One girl, just 13 years old, lost her dad last week; he had hung himself. Another young girl's stepfather is the local drug kingpin. Appallingly, she is sometimes used to run drugs. All of them are so impressionable and vulnerable. And all of them are so very precious and need the Gospel.

About once every month, Vera holds a tea party at WPBC and leads a study using *1000 Gifts* by Ann Voskamp, a study that helps people develop an "attitude of gratitude" by listing and thanking God for every blessing.



Western Paradise Bible Chapel in 2017.

Looking ahead

Our prayer for WPBC is that more souls will be saved, helped, equipped, and sent out again to serve. To this end, we seek to provide consistent biblical teaching and outreach activities. Lord willing, in September we will launch a new youth ministry for the area assemblies that will include an annual youth rally. Two teams plan to visit soon: an eTeam in November and a team of youth from an assembly in Canada that will help with the youth rally at the end of the year. Please pray for these teams.

Pray for Belize

Pray for Grace Primary School. There is a tremendous need for Christian teachers who can provide a godly example for future generations.

Pray for resources as we make upgrades to the WPBC facilities. It is very evident that we will need a van to help with teams, the youth ministry every Friday, and Sunday school.

Please pray for the Belizean assemblies. Pray for revival among God's people and for new souls to come to Him. ■



Sean and Vera O'Byrne were commended in 2016 by Matheson Gospel Chapel, Matheson, Ontario.

CMML MISSIONARY GUEST HOME

A Home Away from Home for Missionaries

BY PHILIP & MARY PARSONS



Do you ever wonder what it is like to stay at the CMML Missionary Guest Home? During our years of missionary service in the Philippines, we deliberately planned a visit to the home in Wall Township, New Jersey, anytime we were in the United States because we knew that it was a cozy haven with peace and quiet. Now, some 30 years later, we count it a privilege to provide the same kind of service to commended workers looking for a place to rest, refresh, and prepare for their next steps.

THE EARLY YEARS

As the place where missionaries arrived and departed, New York City was the ideal location for the CMML office for many years. Countless memorable farewell and welcome home gatherings occurred in New York harbor. The Julia Hasse Memorial Missionary Home was located just across the river in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, in 1930, a stately mansion was built by William Buchsbaum of Belmar, New Jersey, but in early 1950, he sold the 200-acre property and his mansion to the Sisters of Saint Joseph. They used the facility as their administrative headquarters and renamed it Mount Saint Joseph Generalate. By 1971, CMML director Dr. Robert Hazel learned that the property was for sale again. Several prominent people showed great interest in acquiring the property, but the Sisters insisted that the building be used for "God's work." Indeed, God provided the way for CMML to purchase the property, and in July 1972, the New York City opera-

tion, including the office, clothing center, and guest home, shifted to its current location in Wall Township, New Jersey.

THE GUEST HOME TODAY

The home, originally known as Boxwood Manor, was enlarged by the Sisters of the Generalate. The additions, including private rooms and office space, now provide accommodations for missionaries and the CMML administration. The board of directors invited Len and Esther Brooks, missionaries to the Philippines, to serve as managers of the building and hosts to missionaries going to or returning from the field. In 1992, when Len and Esther were ready to turn the CMML ministry over to others, Mert and Jane Wolcott were invited to serve at CMML. During their years of service, both couples developed and enhanced the hospitality provided to missionaries. Then, in 2006, we were invited to carry on this ministry.

MISSIONARY HOSPITALITY

Once missionaries have communicated their arrival and departure information to Mary, who is responsible for managing the use of the guest rooms, CMML provides transportation services to and from the Newark, JFK, and Philadelphia airports, if necessary. Although some missionaries drive to CMML, many utilize the international airports. Additionally, when missionaries stay at CMML, the staff can help them arrange a rental car for their visit, if needed, and speaking engagements at the assemblies in the area.



Hundreds of missionaries enter through CMML's beautiful doors each year. The guest rooms and kitchens offer comfort and refreshment.

The Missionary Guest Home boasts a variety of rooms. The Family Apartment can accommodate up to 10 people, while the Garden Apartment comfortably serves up to six people. In addition, there are three large bedrooms with attached baths and five hotel-style rooms with bathrooms located just down the hall. In total, the CMML guest home has the capacity to house more than 30 people per night.

While staying at CMML, missionaries are responsible for their own meals. The apartments include private kitchens, while the hotel-style rooms have access to a spacious communal kitchen. All visiting missionaries are invited to utilize the house's food pantry, which is stocked with non-perishable items that the local assemblies contribute.

Besides the kitchen and office, the main floor contains a library of more than 5,000 volumes of religious texts, of which some are very rare. This special room is often used as a quiet place for study and reflection. The lower level offers a well-equipped laundry center, a children's playroom, and a large recreation area.

On a property of 17 acres, the outdoors is a favorite destination for children. Adjacent to the backyard garden, a wooden playground with swings and a slide is available for kids to play on, as are bikes that can be ridden on the property's long driveway. During the warm summer months, the famous Jersey Shore, located minutes away, is open for visitors. CMML also offers guests advice and tips on planning day trips into New York City or historic Philadelphia.

Beyond the quality accommodations and variety of activities at CMML, the most popular attraction is the Clothing Center (for detailed information, see *Missions* May 2017). Missionaries are welcome to peruse and choose from new or nearly new clothing that the Lord's people have graciously donated. Volunteers manage the center, regularly sorting through donations and attractively displaying them for missionaries. The Clothing Center was recently renovated with new carpet, a drop ceiling, and efficient lighting.

THE CMML OFFICE

A team of dedicated office, housekeeping, maintenance, and volunteer personnel enhance the "home away from home" aspect of CMML. Visiting missionaries often join the staff for a time of prayer each morning during the office's coffee break. Here, the staff learns more about the missionaries and their ministries as well as how to pray for them more effectively. Connecting in this way strengthens the bond between CMML's staff and the missionaries, and it gives meaning to CMML's purpose of "serving those who serve." The CMML team also strives to provide missionaries with resources on banking, medical, and safety and security concerns.

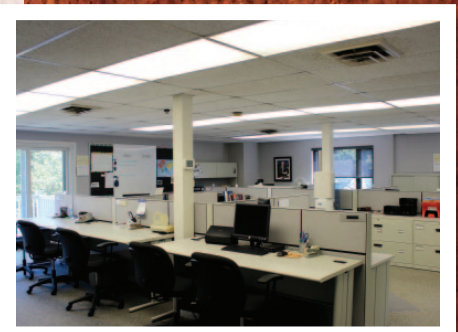
YOUR HELP

CMML's ministry is truly a work of God. He is pleased to use His people to encourage and bless those ministering abroad. Imagine all that is needed daily to provide hospitality for missionary guests! In a building with 13 rooms, 22 toilets, nine bathtubs, 12 showers, six kitchens, and four furnaces, the maintenance and housekeeping is an ongoing project. In 2016, CMML was a second home to more than 102 families. Gifts, both financial and practical, are used to ensure that, upon arrival, missionaries have fresh bed linens, clean towels, and a well-stocked food pantry to select from. Thank you for your prayers for the CMML Missionary Guest Home, and thank you for helping it be missionaries' "home away from home." ■

Philip and Mary Parsons coordinate CMML's Missionary Guest Home. Phil also oversees assembly relations and missionary care.



Phil and Mary Parsons ensure that all missionary guests have a pleasant, restful stay.



Children build friendships in the playroom and make memories in the backyard. CMML's team gathers each day to assist missionaries practically and spiritually.

God's Work in

Paraguay

Laboring with Bjarne & Rosalba Fostervold

BY PHILIP WELCH

Earlier this year I had the difficult privilege of seeing God use Bjarne and Rosalba Fostervold (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 25) to work among the Ache people of Paraguay. First, I say *difficult* because the Spirit of God stretched me physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually as I traveled and served. Second, I say *privilege* because my eyes were opened to the movement of the Spirit in details and events that cannot be envisioned through emails, phone calls, or the usual means of missionary correspondence.

The Fostervold's ministry

Bjarne was a preteen when he dedicated himself to the work his parents, Rolf and Irene, started in a small Paraguayan village. The original 29 Ache people came to Christ after Rolf preached the Gospel in the jungles. Although the work that his parents began changed significantly since its origin, Bjarne and Rosalba faithfully carry it on.

Now, Bjarne and Rosalba assist the community spiritually and physically, as the Ache raise crops and animals for sustenance on a limited amount of land. Besides spending much time setting up meetings, communicating as liaison between the Ache and the government, and transporting people, Bjarne devotes time to spiritual counseling in an effort to build up the Ache leaders. He teaches and invites others to teach the Ache



elders, who have been established in the local church yet need continuous biblical training. Rosalba works tirelessly as the Superintendent of Education for the Ache tribe. She

oversees multiple facilities around the region, which necessitates hours of travel to other communities and the capital city. She is instituting a Christian curriculum for all school ages and for adults in these communities. She also trains the teachers, whether believers or not, in biblical principles to ensure that they become grounded in the Gospel and that God's truth pervades the schools.



Our trip

With Domingo Rodriguez and I representing our assembly in Wisconsin and Fred Scott representing TeamWorkers Abroad, we journeyed to Puerto Barra in southeast Paraguay to encourage the ministry through construction work and Bible teaching.

We conducted several work projects during our visit. The agricultural business was in need of an office in the community, and someone donated a steel shipping container for this purpose. The major problem the container presented was unbearable heat from the daily sun. To make this container cool, we insulated the walls and added a tin roof. We also constructed shelves for food in the community kitchen's walk-in cooler unit. We had an interesting time the first few days trying to do these projects with the materials, fasteners, and tools available in the village or for purchase in the region. Furthermore, we struggled with the metric measurements and language barriers. God used these challenges to conform me more to the image of His glorious Son, as He promises in Romans 8:29.

Besides the work projects, Domingo conversed with the Ache people as much as possible in Spanish to get a sense of their spiritual condition. On a couple of occasions, we had the opportunity to preach. We also spent time encouraging Bjarne and Rosalba.

From top: Bjarne and Phil after praying with Alejo and Teresa; Local believers presenting special music at the Ache assembly.



Our observations

Before visiting, we could not imagine the unique challenges to the mission work that exist here. When helping the Ache, many do so in a way that tramples the ideas or preferences of the recipients and even eliminates the village council's ability to lead, while others take advantage of the tribe for political means.

In a village set apart from society and cloistered around a chapel, surprisingly few people are dedicated to the church. The older generation praises God for the mission work, but many of the younger generation fill their time and affection with distractions. The Ache village struggles to survive economically and spiritually amid technology that outruns them and sweeps them away at the same time. The technology necessary for successfully operating a farming community would seem unattainable for a people group that entered the contemporary world only 40 years ago. Nonetheless, the poverty-stricken people embrace personal electronic devices and satellite TV, both of which bring to their eyes, minds, and souls the lure of worldly riches and the things of the flesh.

Another challenge comes from the blessings that this village receives as a result of following God.

Since the original residents of this village were saved and living by Christian principles decades ago, they became more economically successful than other groups in the Ache tribe. Because of this, many Ache people from other settlements want to join this group by marriage, for example, but are not willing to live by Christian principles. The village leaders face a great challenge as they distribute the collective resources to those in need while protecting the group from spiritual decline.

The reward

We were nearly brought to tears one day when an elder, Alejo, and his wife, Teresa, who were part of the original 29 Ache, requested to pray with us. They greatly appreciated our service to their community, and as we prayed, the bond of the Spirit was almost tangible.

Prayer is necessary for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the young generation. Pray that God would bring about spiritual awakening, replace the mindset of poverty with hope, enable the spreading of the Gospel to other Ache communities, raise up workers, hearten the spiritual and community leaders, and encourage Bjarne and Rosalba in their daily walk with God.

Philip Welch is in fellowship with Grace & Truth Bible Chapel of Westby, Wisconsin.

From top: Fred securing posts for the shipping container's roof; The team raising beams for the roof; Bjarne and Fred assessing the metal shipping container; Fred, Domingo, and two local brothers in front of the new office; A village home with satellite television.



Paraguay

Ministering with Dale & Rosemary Konkol

BY DOMINGO RODRIGUEZ

The Great Commission the Lord gave us is “to preach the Gospel” (Mark 16:15) and to make disciples (Matt 28:19–20). During our Lord’s earthly ministry, we read that great multitudes followed Him because of His evangelistic work and healing ministry (John 6:2). When the Lord Jesus preached discipleship to the multitudes (Luke 14:25–26), the crowds dwindled to a handful (John 6:60–66), but through the 11 remaining disciples, God carried on the great work that the Lord Jesus began. As His body on the earth today, we are to continue the ministry.

During a chance meeting last year at my home fellowship in Westby, Wisconsin, I was blessed to meet Dale and Rosemary Konkol (MPH Day 25), who have served in Paraguay for 17 years. Although usually in San Juan Bautista, Paraguay, they were visiting the States when we met last summer. They happened to visit the assembly on Sunday, despite knowing no one. Before they left that day, I said to them, “Who knows? Maybe we’ll visit you in Paraguay someday.” The Lord turned that statement into reality, for just eight months later, I was bound for Paraguay.

The work

After we arrived at the capitol city of Asuncion and traveled to San Juan Bautista, the Konkols immediately put us to work. That evening, we attended a young people’s meeting, where Phil Welch spoke about the next steps in the Christian life. Speaking from personal experiences, he exhorted the group to embark on a deeper walk with the Lord. There were a couple of new people in attendance, including two unsaved individuals in their 20s.

The next day, Sunday, was a full day. The first meeting, held at 8:30 a.m., was well attended—many in the group are relatively

new believers and first-generation Christians. I brought the message from the Word because I am able to preach in Spanish. I also shared my personal testimony, emphasizing the meaning of water baptism (Romans 6) in the Christian life—death to the old self and new life in Christ. The two young unbelievers came again.

Sunday evening was spent at the chapel where the Konkols prepared a couples’ banquet. Several unsaved were in the crowd, so Fred spoke about Christ’s love for the Church, which the husband and wife relationship exemplifies. After games, pictures, and a meal, the couples lingered for more fellowship.

The third day, we enjoyed getting to know the Konkols and their ministry better. Dale arranged for me to speak that afternoon at a radio station’s half-hour preaching program. In the evening, Dale scheduled an open forum at which anyone could ask us questions about the Christian walk and to get to know us better. Once again, the two unsaved young people attended.

The harvest

Although we were only with the Konkols for a handful of days, the ministry opportunities were numerous and rewarding. I began this article by emphasizing both parts of the Great Commission: evangelism and discipleship. I highlight this because it is exactly what brother and sister Konkol are doing: faithfully serving their Lord Jesus through evangelism and discipleship. Oh, those two young unbelievers? I recently received an email letting me know that they both came to Christ! ■

Domingo Rodriguez is in fellowship with Grace & Truth Bible Chapel of Westby, Wisconsin.



Above (L-R): Domingo preaching on the radio program with Dale; The Konkols and friends awaiting their guests’ arrivals at the couples’ banquet.

Home With the Lord

Josephine Ann Rothenberger Sommerville

August 11, 1930 – March 15, 2017 • Missionary to Argentina

For almost 67 years of married life and Christian service in the United States, Peru, and Argentina, God gave me the perfect partner.

Born in 1930, the 10th of five brothers and six sisters, Josephine grew up in a family of hard working Kansas pioneers. They lived clean lives and were good students, excellent athletes, and accomplished musicians. Not until her freshman year as a piano major at the University of Kansas did she realize that something was missing. Two roommates (one was Florence Wakefield *Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 27) helped her see this through their lives and by taking her to the Lawrence Bible Chapel and IVCF (InterVarsity Christian Fellowship). Still, it took a year to really convince her.

I, David, was a graduate student and Spanish instructor at the university when we began going together. She was not yet a believer and God spoke to me clearly that this could not continue. One Sunday evening I told her it was over and explained why. She could tell my decision was final.

Five days later, talking to an IVCF staff member, she committed her life to Christ Jesus as her Lord. After two days I called her and asked if we could talk about it. She asked me to wait a minute, and when she returned to the phone she read Romans 14:23: "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." She wanted to pray about it; she wasn't sure God wanted us to get together again. Already she knew what "Jesus is Lord" meant, and that was the essence of her life from then on.

A bit later I told her God wanted me to serve Him in another country, that this had been impressed on me by my learning Spanish as a teenager and spending many months working with missionaries in Mexico. Did she feel the same call? "No," she told me frankly, but she definitely felt God's call to marry me and serve with me wherever He took us. With that our lives were set.

We married in 1950, but immediately came two years of separation with my army service in the United States, Japan, and combat in Korea. Our life brought many long separations, but this was the worst. It was good training. In addition, growing up during the Great Depression prepared us for "having food and raiment let us be there-with content." (1 Timothy 6:8) In 1954 we moved to Peru and on to Argentina in 1969.

One of Josephine's most important services for God was rearing four children in countries with a language and cultures foreign to her, at least in the beginning. Especially due to her influence, all four of them, with spouses and children, have gone forward with God. Over the years, this has been one of our strongest testimonies for what the Gospel can do. She was the center of our home and was always willing to host groups of believers, overnight visitors, students from the colleges where I taught, and our children's friends. She did it all willingly, never complaining, with no pretense of doing something special.

She was not a speaker and always regretted it. But she kept very busy visiting, pastoring, and providing piano and choral music for innumerable public programs over the decades.

She died of liver cancer in her own bed, and by God's mercy she suffered for only a few weeks. In a world of overweening ambition, she was happy being exactly who and what God intended for her as a woman, wife, mother, and witness for Him. Her greatest asset was her character. She was totally committed, very strong, and truly humble. Since her passing, this is what so many have commented on and what most impressed them. It was not so much what she knew or did or said but simply what and who she was. Her character and personality reflected Christ Jesus, her Lord and Savior.



William David Sommerville



ASSEMBLY CARE HEALTH LINE

Extending Quality Health Care to Missionaries

BY PAUL MORRIS

Missionaries live lives of faith. You have no doubt seen this over and over again in *Missions* magazine. This theme of faith is especially prominent when health problems arise. Despite their faith, missionaries need health care, like anyone; however, often they do not have access to the same levels of care that we might have stateside.

The problem

There are several reasons why a missionary may not be able to enjoy proper health care. First, sometimes the region's care may lack quality. Other times the missionaries may have insufficient finances to get the appropriate level of care. Or, third, cross-cultural communication makes it difficult for missionaries to feel confident in the treatment they are receiving. Each of these reasons adds to the anxiety of the health crisis that the missionary is facing.

A solution

We at Assembly Care Health Line would like to present a solution. The North American assemblies have a host of resources and numerous medically trained brothers and sisters who want to use their gifts to glorify the Lord.

The Assembly Care Health Line was built as a hub to connect these members of the body of Christ to each other in a practical way. Then, when commended workers have a health problem, they can call us, and we will place them in contact with an assembly-based nurse, and doctor if needed, in less than 24 hours.

This service boasts numerous benefits. First, it provides access to medical professionals who understand what your primary mission is—to continue serving the Lord as He wills. Second, it creates access to medical doctors who are experts in their respective fields and are up to date on trending medical practices. Third, it gives commended workers access to medical prescriptions and recommendations. While a prescription might not be useful to a missionary in a foreign country, it would be very helpful to a commended worker or missionary who is on furlough in the United States. Finally, in some cases,

medical care providers can do procedures for missionaries on furlough for free or at reduced costs. Whether the commended worker is looking for treatment options or a second opinion, these benefits are valuable. The Body of Christ is wonderful in the way that members can support one another for the Glory of God.

How it works

Missionaries can reach us at ACMHealthLine.com or by calling 747-226-4577. The initial response will come within 24 hours from one of our nurses, either Dennis McGee or Deb Gutshall, both of whom have many years of medical experience. If necessary, the call will be coordinated with one of our volunteer medical doctors: Steve Price, Esther Brew, or Caleb Trent. At that time, our medical volunteers will work with the commended workers to resolve whatever concerns they may have.

Why it matters

You may be wondering how this information relates to you. Whether you are an elder from a commending assembly, a believer in frequent contact with a certain commended worker, or an individual looking for ways to support missionaries practically, we need you to serve as an advocate for Assembly Care Health Line.

When missionaries with whom you are in contact tell you of a health need, encourage them to reach out to Assembly Care Health Line. If they are presently free of health concerns, invite them to visit our website to fill out the consent and intake forms. Completing these forms requires only five minutes, and doing so will make the process smooth when there is a medical concern.

If you have questions or would like more information, please email Paul Morris at pmorris@assemblycare.org or Dennis McGee at dennis@acmhealthline.com. ■

Paul Morris operates and maintains Assembly Care Ministries. He is in fellowship at Martinez Bible Chapel in Augusta, Georgia.