

# Missions

A group of smiling people, including children and adults, are in the water. Some are making peace signs. The background shows a body of water and distant mountains.

**Reaching the  
Deaf in Fiji**

**Sakeji School  
Celebrates  
90 Years**

**A Thriving Work  
in Burundi**

**Ministering in  
Central Asia**



# Thinking It Through

ALAN PARKS

## Is There Hope?

The angelic proclamation was instant and thrilling—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to man." Their heavenly eruption was fitting; God had come to earth in the form and appearance of man. The long-promised Seed, the second Adam, the Son of God.

It was a long time ago and, sadly, now seems so far away. Mankind largely ignores or rejects the God of glory; peace is a commodity in short supply and goodwill to man is scarcely evidenced in our world. We can understand how many believers wonder at how far this groaning planet has fallen from the quiet glory of His birth. Thousands are being persecuted and many are martyred daily. Societies have grown humanistic and secularized as legislation that honors everything that God despises prevails. The question looms: "Is there hope?" Students of history know that our world has always been a mess; the fall in Eden sealed humanity's fate. By one man's disobedience sin entered the world, and the inevitable end of sin is death (Romans 5:12, 19). Also inevitable is the fact that sin is a downward helix: when mankind gets away with a little, they'll always try for more. It has always been this way as human nature cannot change itself. The words exclaimed by angels indeed seem very distant.

So, is there hope? The simple answer is yes! And it requires two considerations: the regeneration of a human heart and the rededication of the children of God.

Only God can change a heart. We all believe that. The Savior who was born in solitude came purposely to die. He entered a world climate similar to ours; people were lost in sin, rebellious, apathetic, living life as if God didn't exist. He came into a region of political unrest and hypocrisy knowing that ultimately He'd be largely rejected. Undeterred, He came. Quietly, He lived and grew up and assimilated into a culture alien to His divine nature. His life was of singular perfection and moral glory, yet even His own brothers rejected His deity. He persevered with a face set as hardened flint toward His ultimate

purpose: dying for the very sins that grieved Him. Dying to settle debts His fallen creation were too bankrupt to pay. To make the unloveable lovely, the sinner a saint, to free the captive's bonds, and to win for Himself a glorious bride. There would be, however, an enormous price to be paid, and He did so willingly with delight for the joys set before Him. He suffered, He died, He was buried and then rose again in triumph. Hundreds were witness to His resurrected glory. It's called the Gospel, the very best of good news.

Set against that glorious backdrop is the danger that in a darkening world we may think that the power of God has been diminished. Relatively few are accepting Christ, so the Gospel is not as effective today as it once was, some might conclude. This is, however, a false assumption. The power of God is as undeterred as is His plan for the ages. People across the planet are still coming to Him in repentance and accepting Him as Savior. Friends are still leading friends to Christ. The Gospel still works! The fields are still white and ready for the harvest, while sadly, the laborers seem fewer.

As we enter this holiday season, how is our witness for Christ? Won't we agree that one of the greatest needs—right now—is for the rededication of ourselves, the Church? The ancient antidote given by God at the dedication of Solomon's temple must be applied to our hearts as well: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14) Regeneration of lost souls, and the rededication of our hearts in devotion, service, and witness for Him, will yield tangible results. We can't change a dying world, but we must ask Him to change us first, to live and speak the only message that can.

One day soon, the saints of all the ages will join in eternal song. With Him, like Him, forever. Time is short and the needs are great. Regeneration is God's greatest gift to man and rededication is our only possible gift to Him. ■

*Alan Parks is a commended worker living in South Carolina.*

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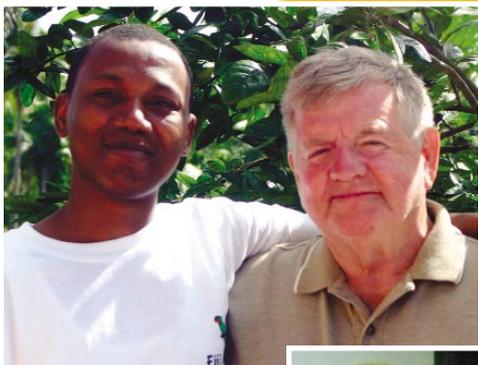
COVER PHOTO: Cooney—Children from the Gospel School for the Deaf in Fiji



# Reaching the Deaf

Fiji & the South Pacific

BY MARILYN COONEY



“A funny thing happened on the way to retirement,” says Jim Cooney, Director of the Fiji Deaf Ministry. Jim and his wife Marilyn have served the deaf in Fiji for more than 15 years, after retiring from the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

## The ministry’s beginning

The Fiji Deaf Ministry was founded by Vivienne Harland, a missionary from England. Vivienne had progressive hearing loss and eventually became deaf. She then began to take deaf children into her home, teaching Bible lessons and sign language.

In Fiji, the deaf are often looked down upon and considered cursed by God. Fiji had no schools for the deaf as the deaf were not considered worth educating and were often hidden away. Vivienne soon realized the need for a school so that deaf children could learn to read the Bible independently.

In 1999 the Gospel School for the Deaf began with 13 students in the Samabula Gospel Chapel. With the help of Matthew Adedeji, a missionary from Nigeria, Vivienne raised funds and the first floor of a school building was built. A year later, Wale Alade, also a missionary from Nigeria, came as head teacher. The school building was completed in 2004 by Mobile Maintenance Missionaries.

Top: Students and staff. Above (from top): Wale Alade and Jim Cooney; Vivienne Harland.



## Cooneys join the team

In 2001 Dr. Peter Blackwell, principal of the Rhode Island School for the Deaf and an elder at Bethany Gospel Chapel in Massachusetts, received a call for help from

Fiji. He recommended Jim and

Marilyn Cooney, who had both worked at the school for their entire careers. Jim took over as ministry director and Marilyn taught a class in the school, trained teachers, and directed curriculum. Wale Alade later moved on to a deaf ministry in England and Jim took over as the school's head. Vivienne ran the hostels and passed away in 2009. You can read a more complete history on the website [www.FijiDeaf.net](http://www.FijiDeaf.net).



## The school today

The school now serves more than 70 students from several South Pacific countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Myanmar, Nauru and the Solomon Islands. We are located on the campus of the Gospel "hearing schools," which includes a kindergarten, primary school, and high school of more than 1,000 students. An interpreter training program was established so that students leaving Gospel Primary School for the Deaf could go on to Gospel High School or to various local vocational schools.

In addition to Vivienne's home, we now rent three other homes for students. Christian couples care for the children in each of the hostels, and all communicate in sign language. We

try to make hostel life as family-like as possible. Medical and dental needs, which many of the children do not receive in their home villages, are also provided.

The children love school! We use an integrated, "hands on," whole language curriculum. Bible is taught daily and is connected to topics that the children study (e.g. ancient cultures of Greece and Rome integrates with the life of Christ and the early Church; the first civilization, Mesopotamia, integrates with the life of Abraham; ancient Egypt integrates with the life of Moses and the feasts of Israel).

## Adult ministry

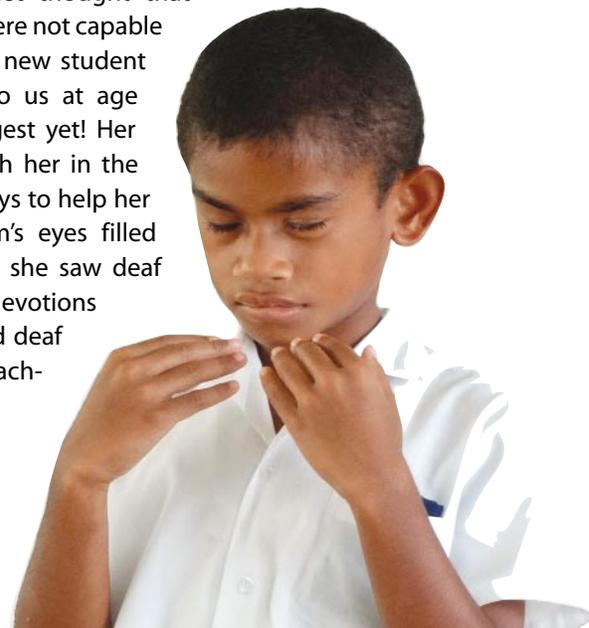
We also have a deaf adult Christian fellowship run by the deaf. They hold an Easter camp each year at the school and an August camp by the ocean, where many deaf have been baptized. The deaf worship together at Suva Street Gospel Chapel where services are interpreted in sign language.



## Parents and background

Deafness brings children from different backgrounds to the school. We service children from many Christian denominations, along with Hindus and Muslims. All receive daily Bible instruction. Parents accept this because they like the education their deaf children receive.

Parents are often emotional when they see their children pray in sign language or memorize and recite whole chapters of Scripture. Most thought that these children were not capable of learning. One new student recently came to us at age four—our youngest yet! Her mom stayed with her in the hostel several days to help her adjust. Her mom's eyes filled with tears when she saw deaf adults leading devotions in the hostel, and deaf professionals teach-



Left (from top): Jim & Marilyn Cooney; Gospel campus; Volleyball at the hostel; Vivienne's house. Right (from top): Suva Street Gospel Chapel; August camp by the ocean; Aminiasi praying.



ing in the school. We also employ deaf maintenance workers and bus drivers—many of whom have gone through our program. Parents are thrilled to learn that their deaf children can become contributing members of society and are given hope.

## The children

Pictured at the top right of this photo is Manuera. His name means Emanuel, God with us. Manuera came to us at age nine from Kiribati. His older brother and sister are also deaf and attended Gospel School for the Deaf. Manuera was a bright boy who loved school and learned quickly. He especially loved Bible class and gave his heart to Christ soon after coming to school. Because of the expense, students from Kiribati usually do not go home for holidays. But one year, for Christmas, we asked local churches to help these students go home to see their families. Manuera was out playing one day with some hearing friends on the local airstrip near his home. Sadly, a truck illegally sped across the airstrip. The hearing children heard it coming and ran out of its path, but Manuera was struck and killed. We went to Kiribati to officiate his funeral. It was a very sad time! We are thankful that at an early age Manuera had the opportunity to come to school and learn about God's love for him, and he is with his Lord today. His older brother also committed his life to Christ during that time.



## More who need help

We know there are still many deaf out on the islands who are not in school. They have no communication and do not even know their own names. Our goal is to find them and bring them to school. Just this year a woman came into the



office saying she knew of many deaf on Koro Island. We immediately sent out a team and they brought back two new students. Two more came later. They have been in school for several months now and are doing well.

## Prayer requests

We are thankful that God has greatly blessed the ministry over the years. There are still many needs and we covet your prayers.

Please pray for:

- More deaf leaders in the Adult Christian Fellowship.
- More trained teachers of the deaf. Many of our teachers have not completed high school themselves and have little understanding of deaf education.
- An educator of the deaf to come alongside Jim and Marilyn to eventually take over the ministry's leadership.
- Additional training for the hostel staff and someone to oversee medical and dental needs on a regular basis. We are grateful that about 80 volunteers have contributed in wonderful ways over the years. We always welcome new volunteers in any capacity.
- Continued student sponsorship. We never turn children away for lack of funds and trust God to supply their needs. Most families cannot afford school or hostel fees (\$350 for school for the year, and \$750 for the hostel). Please contact us if you are interested in sponsoring a child ([rirooster@me.com](mailto:rirooster@me.com)).
- Land for building a new hostel, so we will no longer have to pay rent. We are a "hand-to-mouth" ministry and funds are always short. But God is faithful and continues to provide.
- An audiologist. There are none in Fiji. Hearing aids are expensive and very few deaf have them. Some have been donated but we need to have them calibrated and ear molds made.
- A speech teacher. For three years, we had an excellent volunteer who has since returned to New Zealand, and we've not found a replacement.

Please pray for these students and for those who have not yet been found. Pray too for our school and hostel leaders who are very dedicated and work hard for little pay. As our students leave school, pray that the foundation they were given here will take hold, and they will grow to become Christian leaders, sharing their faith with others and growing in their relationship with the Lord. ■

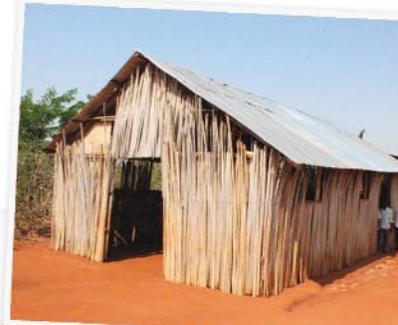


*James and Marilyn Cooney were commended in 2006 by the assembly in Swansea, Massachusetts.*

From top: Kids from the school (Manuera, top right); Deaf singers on Palm Sunday; Children at the village.

# Burundi Update

## CMML Visits a Thriving Work



BY PHILIP C. PARSONS

Landlocked and one of the poorest countries in Africa, Burundi is tiny in size yet has the second highest population density on the continent. It is a country that has endured years of civil unrest and political turmoil, resulting in a population that is predominantly young, a life expectancy just over 50 years and more than 70 percent who live below the poverty line. Recently, my wife, Mary, and I visited Burundi to spend time with our missionaries there (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 1).

### Missionary legacy

Pioneer missionaries Carl and Eleanor Johnson were among the earliest assembly missionaries to serve in Africa. Delayed by World War II, the Johnsons finally reached Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) in 1945 to work with the Deans in Nyankundi. The Lord opened other opportunities and by 1950 a work was established in the Belgian Congo (now Burundi) in the capital city of Bujumbura. A mission station was created and soon a health clinic and schools for the blind and deaf were built. Preaching the Gospel remained the priority of their ministry, and assemblies were planted primarily in Bujumbura. To date, 123 assemblies have been planted. The leadership of the Emmanuel Churches in Burundi has set the goal to plant 80 new assemblies in the next five years.

The work being done today in Burundi is an expansion of the pioneer work done by Carl and Eleanor Johnson.

### Jeremy and Sonja Bassett

The newest missionaries to join the team are Jeremy and Sonja Bassett. Commended by the assemblies in Wauwatosa and Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, the Bassetts arrived in early 2014. Mastery of Kirundi while immersed in a new culture

occupied their early days. By February 2015, the Lord blessed them with a baby girl, Reese. Jeremy put his construction skills to use and modified some of the buildings on the compound to make efficient use of rooms and space. Many depend on Jeremy for solving computer and Internet issues. He has visited many of the area assemblies giving time to teach God's Word and encouraging the believers. Literacy training, Timothy Bible School teaching, Kirundi Scripture translation and Emmaus Correspondence course translation and printing are all part of the Bassetts' ministry.

### Jesse and Joy Johnson

Jesse is the oldest son of Harry and Ruth Johnson (Tanzania, Day 4) and grandson of Carl and Eleanor Johnson. He and wife Joy began their service in 2006 commended from Believer's Bible Chapel, North Carolina, and Forest Hills, Michigan. Within two years, The Discovery School was founded in partnership with the Community of Emmanuel Churches Burundi. The school's mission is "to plant seeds for Burundi's future by providing a high-quality, sustainable, critical-thinking-based Christian education." Joy is the school's Academic Director while Jesse helps as a consultant and adviser to the Burundian leadership in non-academic matters.

Among many ministries started by his grandfather, Carl, is the Evangelistic Film Team. This ministry was halted soon after Carl's home call, but in 2007 Jesse and a few Burundian believers began monthly trips to remote areas to show the *Jesus* film and other evangelistic films. Today, a team dedicated to this project goes out to the Burundi provinces twice each month to show films. As a result, many have come to Christ, and the local assemblies are growing.

Far left two photos: Mother and baby at health clinic; Bujumbura assembly.



### Daniel and Anne Johnson

Another son of Harry and Ruth and grandson of Carl and Eleanor, Daniel and his wife, Anne, began service in Burundi in 2012. Lord willing, by January 2016, Daniel and Anne and their three children expect to begin a pioneer work about five hours west of Bujumbura. Property has been purchased and Daniel has nearly finished building a home for his family on the property. Gifted and interested in farming, Dan expects to help farmers in the region by modeling and teaching farming techniques and animal breeding. With 90 percent of Burundi dependent upon agriculture for a living, Daniel is likely to have several farmers eager to improve their livelihood. The property is large enough for future projects including a church building, a school for the deaf and a health center. Daniel and Anne shared their burden and requested prayer for others to join them in this new effort.

### Ken and Melli Johnson

Ken has been connected with a wide array of ministries in Burundi since 1984. Ken and Melli met in Burundi, married and in 2001, founded The Rainbow Center. This was established to provide care, treatment and safekeeping of orphaned, abandoned and HIV positive babies. Melli devotes much of her time to the Rainbow Center as well as caring for the Burundian orphans they have adopted. Ken is a skilled mechanic and general maintenance specialist and a much sought-after person by both missionaries and nationals. We missed seeing Melli during our visit as she and some of their children were in the United States at the time.

**Top row starting top of page 6 (L-R):** Nearby assembly; Local children; Some of the Bujumbura team; Bujumbura assembly music team. **Bottom row (L-R):** Elders at a nearby assembly with Jesse Johnson and Daniel Johnson; Discover School students; Discover School primary students; Jesse and Joy Johnson with Harry and Ruth Johnson (MPH Day 4—Tanzania) at a memorial to Carl Johnson; Bujumbura assembly meeting.

### Pray for Burundi

Years of tribal enmity and health related illnesses have left more than 500,000 children with only one parent. Few children attend school. The Discovery School helps to meet this crisis but more workers are needed as the school grows. Translating literature in the Kirundi language is an ambitious project. The evangelistic film team is thankful for the repair of the vehicle, so now they can resume the ministry by visiting remote provinces throughout Burundi. Pray for the safety of our workers in Bujumbura. Recent elections have heightened the tension in the capital region near where our workers live. Pray for Dan and Anne as they relocate from Bujumbura to a more rural and neglected region of Burundi. More workers are needed to reach these people. Pray how the Lord might use you to reach Burundi for Christ. ■



*Philip C. Parsons, CMML Assembly Relations and Missionary Care.*

**Left:** Child at health clinic. **Right:** Discover School students.





# New Country New Opportunities Same Message

From Central America  
to Central Asia

BY DAVID REEVE

**O**ur dinner guest tonight will be late. He's practicing Ramadan and can't start eating until 8:45 on this hot summer evening. Because Ramadan started at the beginning of summer this year, the daylight hours of fasting are long and the eating hours between sunset and sunrise are short; our friend will have to wake up at 2:00 a.m. to prepare and eat his last meal before sunrise.

## **New country**

We live in a Central Asian city with almost 2 million souls who matter to God. A mixture of Russians, Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Germans and Koreans fill the streets with the noises of traffic, sellers and the call to prayer five times a day. The city is nestled in the foothills of the Tien Shan mountains, a range with peaks up to 10,000 feet that divide China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

This country is characterized by thousands of miles of steppe dotted with lakes and mountain ranges. The Silk Road, a network of trade routes connecting Europe and China, ran through here centuries ago and explains the presence of people groups such as the Uygher, Dungan and Tatar who traded along this route and settled around it. Other groups such as the Germans and Koreans are here because Stalin exiled them from Russia in the 1930s, fearing they constituted a threat to government security. As a result, we have opportunities to share the Gospel with people from many nations.

The history of Central Asia is a story of tribal nomads, many of whom migrated from Turkey between the sixth and 10th century. As a result, the local languages are Turkish in origin. Arabs introduced Islam in the eighth century, and Mongol rulers

like Genghis Khan and Tamerlane invaded in the 13th and 14th centuries. The Soviet Union conquered much of the territory in 1917 and made it part of the USSR. When the USSR broke up in the early 1990s, newly independent countries were formed almost overnight. Since then, Islam, the Gospel and western materialism have flooded into these countries competing to fill the resulting political and spiritual vacuum. Some churches planted in the 1990s are now struggling—a bit like the church of Ephesus in Revelation that lost her first love.

## New opportunities

Many ask why we decided to move from Central America to Central Asia six years ago. One of our purposes in Nicaragua and Honduras was to stimulate an interest in missions among churches who already had the Gospel for more than a century. Latinos, like Central Asians, place a high value on relationships, family and hospitality, which makes them ideal workers in this part of the world. After seeing many workers move to Nicaragua and the resulting growth of a number of assemblies, we felt led to “practice what we preached” by going to Central Asia, hoping that others would follow. So far, no one has, but we are encouraged that a couple from the assembly we left behind in Nicaragua has volunteered to come here. Unfortunately, their visas were declined last year, so we continue to wait on the Lord to see what further plans He has. We are currently praying about a brother from Mexico who has expressed interest in coming. Please pray that the Lord sends people from our assemblies in Central and South America. If you’re reading this and have an interest in coming, we teach in an English camp for kids in June and can always use extra helpers!

## Same message

We are involved with two churches; one is a fellowship of believers who speak the country’s official language, and one is a fellowship of Russian-speaking believers who break bread weekly. In addition to encouraging believers in these groups, we have taught English as a visa platform and as a way to build relationships with unbelievers. On Saturday nights we host an English club which allows us to show love through hospitality and also to discuss spiritual themes with our friends. We then schedule meals or one-on-ones with those who express interest so we can share further. One friend, who was my student last year, is reading the Gospel of Matthew and struggling with Jesus’s call to put Himself above our families.

As we better understand what friendship means in the two cultures here, we are trying to learn to be more relaxed about the vast amounts of time people want to spend together. The equivalent of an evening together in a “Western-style” friendship might be an entire day or weekend outing here. For some,

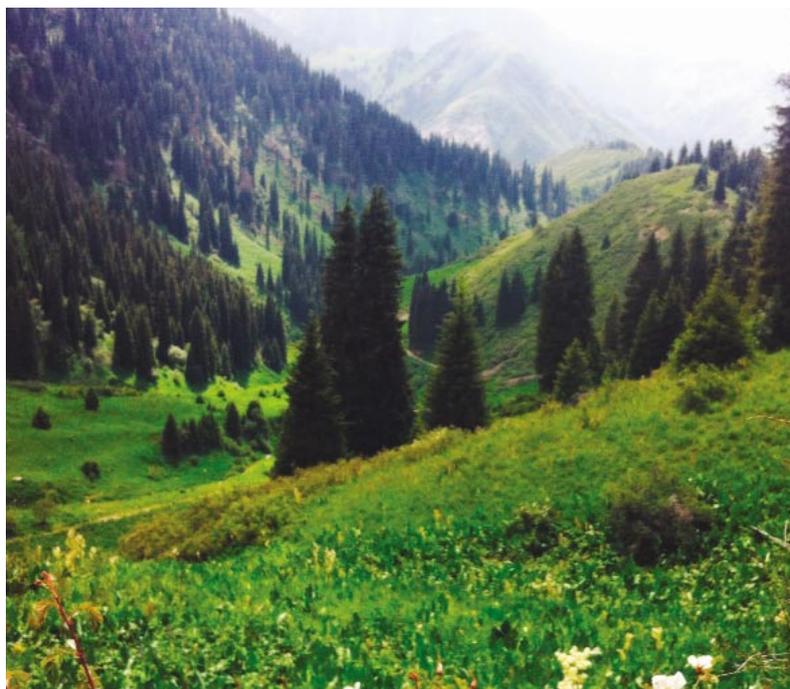
friendship means attending long parties to celebrate a particular rite of passage that is culturally significant. We want to grow in our willingness to keep drinking tea without checking our watches!

## Requested prayer

When people ask how they can pray, we always respond with, “Help learning the language.” This has been a big challenge because we live in a city that is completely bilingual. While the local language was made the official language in the early 1990s, Russian is still the language most widely used in commerce and sales. The result is that no matter what language you choose to study, you frequently hear the other language being spoken.

We came in 2009 with all four of our children. They had the privilege of attending an international school here that is the only Christian school we know of in this country of 17 million people. Three have graduated high school and are attending or have graduated from colleges in the United States. Our youngest, Megan, is in her senior year of high school. Please pray for her to finish well as she goes through the demands of the college applications process and prepares to leave a place she will have lived in for seven years and for us as we face an empty nest for the first time.

Please pray also for the stability of this country. The current president has been in power since the country’s independence in 1991. I believe he has been a good president with the interests of the country at heart. But he is aging and nobody knows who his successor will be. There is much uncertainty about the future. The country’s currency dropped in value about 25 percent recently as it was forced to float, following



Tien Shan mountains in June



**Top:** Kids at English Camp with their certificates.  
**Bottom (L-R):** David with a local friend; Kids here for Christmas (Nathan, Catherine, Peter, Megan).

the drop of the currency in China and other countries in Asia. We don't know what the future holds but we're glad to be lights for now in this gathering of people groups that are so precious to Him.

**Postscript:** Since writing this article, Ramadan has ended. I had lunch the other day with our friend mentioned at the beginning of the article. I asked him how his fast went. He replied, "Oh, my brother and I got into an argument and I got drunk and broke the fast." When I tried to explain to him that Jesus came to restore our broken relationships by becoming a sacrifice for sin, he dismissed it: "No, they killed Him." Please pray that he and others would see the futility of law-keeping and the sufficiency of Christ who has already paid our debt. ■



*David and Betsy Reeve were commended by Fairhaven Bible Chapel in 2000 to the work of the Lord in Central America. In 2009 they made an unexpected move to Central Asia where they serve as English teachers who share the Good News and disciple interested believers.*

## May We Introduce

**Tyler Vecchio**  
*Missionary to Niger*

Jesus is better. Over the past three years God has opened my eyes to this truth. I was exposed to the Gospel from a young age, and I accepted Christ's gift of salvation at age six. However, it was not until I was entering my senior year of high school that God sent someone into my life to disciple me—to show me the better way. Being raised by godly parents in the midst of a loving church community had a tremendous effect on my life, but until that summer of discipleship I was still in love with my sin rather than the awesome person of Jesus. God used that discipleship relationship to show me that Jesus is better than all other things that compete for my affection.

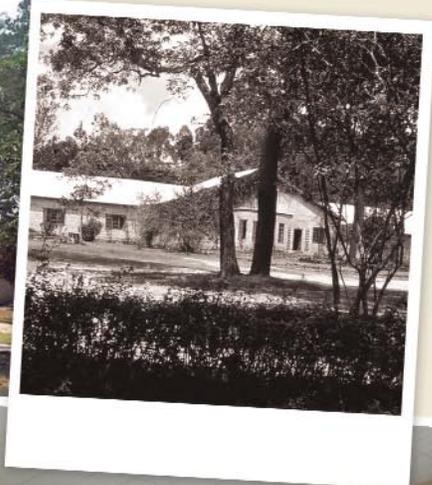
Since that summer God has graciously taught me more about Himself and His Word. My desire to preach Christ to those who have never heard the Gospel developed through a series of sermons heard, biographies read and prayers made. Jesus is worthy of worship from those of every tribe, tongue, language, people and nation—and He will get it! (Revelation 5:9) We have been extended a tremendous privilege to participate in this amazing gathering in of the Good Shepherd's

sheep. Thus, when I learned about unreached people groups (those who have little or no access to the Gospel), I began to ask the Lord for the opportunity to invest my life in reaching such people. Without any immediate indication from the Lord as to what that might look like, I returned to the University of New Haven for my sophomore year. However, throughout that time my longing to live among the unreached only intensified.

Due to my elders' encouragement, I attended the 2015 Missionary Orientation Program. There, the Lord continued to lead me. He used that time to settle my contentment in Christ while also opening up avenues of potential service among unreached peoples.

After more than a year of prayer, I found the door opened for me to work in Niger with a growing team already established there. Please pray for me as I begin this journey of walking and working with Jesus in Africa! ■





# Sakeji Mission School

*Celebrating 90 Years of God's Faithfulness*

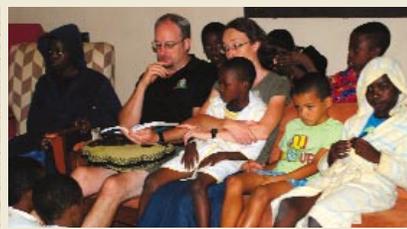
BY MARK RONALD

Founded in 1925, Sakeji Mission School has served missionary kids as well as national children for 90 years. Located in North Western Province of Zambia, Sakeji had a celebratory weekend to commemorate its history and to look to the future for continued service to the Lord.

## Commemorating the past

*"Great is Your Faithfulness." Lamentations 3:23*

It was a privilege to host Sakeji's 90th anniversary celebration weekend in August. Working hard, the staff organized events, accommodations, and meals to make all our guests feel welcome and to bring back special memories of what Sakeji means to so many. The Lord answered prayer that the event itself would be enjoyable and a spiritual encouragement for each one who attended.



**Page 11 (from top):** Recently renovated main sitting room between the boys' and girls' dorm; Old photo of sitting room; Termly birthday party celebration; Old photo of students gathered to eat.

**Above (from top):** Group of former students who hired a minibus from Lusaka so they could attend the celebration; Former students under banner happy to celebrate; Mark and Pamela Ronald and students during dorm devotions; Tug-of-war during the annual sports day; Students perform in the End of Term program; A former pupil sharing memories; Climbing aboard the lorry ride.

### Exciting fellowship

More than 60 former pupils were in attendance, the majority of whom currently live in Zambia, representing most decades from the 1950s up until the present. As former pupils arrived, memories flooded back as they visited “their school”—some hadn’t returned in more than 30 years! The soup, rice cakes, ice cream and fudge, visiting old haunts like the mud pool, the stepping stones and the initial tree, finding a former bed space in the dorm, familiar books in the library, and recalling science experiments gone bad in the science lab were just some of the memories.

There were great opportunities to catch up with old friends and to form new friendships with others who share the common bond of attending Sakeji School. While many things have changed, many traditions remain the same. There was plenty of time for visiting and connecting with each other: gathered around the bamboo bonfire Friday night, in the midst of a scavenger hunt Saturday morning, at the pool while taking in the “King-of-the-Plank” and cruising down the zip line Saturday afternoon, and while enjoying a lorry ride to the cottage Sunday afternoon.

### Challenging encouragement

A common theme that arose over the weekend was an appreciation that the Sakeji School staff, over several generations, had equipped the students with the knowledge of God’s Word and His ways. This knowledge, along with a saving faith in Christ for many, has provided a solid foundation enabling them to meet life’s varied challenges. Many graduates in the last decade are now pursuing post-secondary education in Russia, China, India, Germany, Canada, Zambia and America. They face many challenges, so we pray that they might boldly take a stand for Christ.

On Sunday, we were challenged by two messages exalting the Lord Jesus Christ and encouraging us to make our lives count for what is important. It was a good opportunity for everyone to evaluate the direction their lives are taking. The examples given of Daniel and Ezra reminded us that it is possible to live differently than the world around us.

### Serving today

*“But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of... the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”*  
2 Timothy 3:14–15

*“But you must continue...”* is the school’s motto. And so we must! Sakeji’s 90 years is certainly the result of God’s faithful-

ness. We must look to the future and continue to trust in the same God and seek His guidance for the school's continuance.

Almost 50 percent of Zambia's population is under the age of 15. Therefore, we have an opportunity to impact a generation in this and surrounding countries. Meanwhile, Satan actively works against the raising up of a godly generation and as a result our students, as part of the youth of Zambia, face huge challenges and distractions. Immorality, drug abuse, traditional culture (witchcraft), and materialism are a few of these factors. God's Word and faith in Christ for salvation are the only answers to these challenges.

Sakeji currently has 81 boarding pupils in grades one through nine. Coming to school from a wide cross-section of Zambian society, most begin in grade one and spend 34 weeks a year at school. This forms a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and for the student to learn that, regardless of background, they each have value in God's sight. The staff's goal is to provide students with a secure environment to learn about themselves, the world around them and, most importantly, enter into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord.

## Looking to the future

*"Telling to the generations to come, the praises of the Lord, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done...that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." Psalm 78:4-7*

In December, as another school year closes, several students will leave and move on to other schools to finish their secondary education. They will face many pressures to cave into "norms." We are burdened for some who are still not saved. Please pray with us that the Word of God they have learned and memorized will bear fruit in their lives. God willing, we look forward to new students joining us in 2016. Some will hear the truths from God's Word for the first time.

In order to continue this work, Sakeji needs teachers and other support staff, both as long-term missionaries and short-term volunteers. We look to the Lord to supply the people of His choosing and in His timing. There are immediate needs for a grade one teacher and a grade four and five teacher. Other needs include a mature Christian couple to be dorm parents and those with practical and IT skills.

Each generation needs committed Christians, people of



humility and integrity, willing to be an example of Christ so that God can use them in their families, communities, churches, and countries. For 90 years, Sakeji School has sought to lay the foundation for this to happen. "But you must continue..." and so with God's help we press on. There is much to be done and time is short! ■



*Mark and Pamela Ronald were commended in 2003 to Sakeji Mission School from the Glen Ewen Gospel Hall, Saskatchewan, Canada.*

**Above: (top)** 90th anniversary attendees; **(bottom, L-R)** Group enjoying time at the cottage on the banks of the Zambezi; Two former pupils during a scavenger hunt.



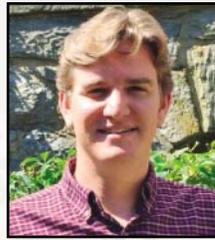
# Meet CMML's Newest Team Members

## CMML's New Facilities Manager



Alan Coburn joined the CMML staff as full-time facilities manager July 2015. He has done facilities work for more than 37 years at Christian camps, such as Camp Iroquoia and Camp Li-Lo-Li as well as two school districts in Warren and Branchburg, New Jersey. Raised in Audubon, New Jersey, he fellowshipped at Community Gospel Chapel in Voorhees, New Jersey. He met and married his wife, Christine, and they presently fellowship at South Branch Bible Fellowship in Hillsborough, New Jersey, where Alan is an elder. He has three grown children who are all active in their various fellowships. He comes with several certifications and licenses and is also involved in Assembly Care Ministries, Assembly HUB, and Gospel Folio Press. Please pray that the Lord would guide and direct him with updates and maintenance to the CMML facilities.

## CMML's Newest Director



John Peasland was nominated to the CMML Board of Directors on September 19, 2015. John and his wife, Ingrid, live in Michigan with their two children Nathan (six) and Abby (five) and are expecting their third soon. John gained a unique perspective and passion for foreign missions while growing up as an MK in Mexico. After graduating from college in the U.S. with a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Communication, he moved back to Mexico and continued to serve the Lord there. John and Ingrid have seen the Lord lead them to various local assemblies both in Mexico and now in the U.S. while John works for General Motors as a facilities manager. They spent three years serving the Lord at Forge Road Bible Chapel in Maryland. As of last year the Peaslands fellowship at Dunning Park Bible Chapel while John works in Detroit. John loves to learn about the Lord's work around the world.

# 26 Below

HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE & CAREER WINTER RETREAT

NORTHEAST	MIDWEST
<p><b>JANUARY 15-17, 2016</b></p> <p><b>SPEAKER:</b> CHRISTIAN RAMIREZ</p> <p><b>THEME:</b> <b>NOT A FAN BUT A FOLLOWER</b></p> <p>CAMP-OF-THE-WOODS SPECULATOR, NY</p> <p>REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 4, 2016</p> <p>REGISTER AT: <a href="http://CMML.US/26BELOW2016">CMML.US/26BELOW2016</a></p>	<p><b>February 26-28, 2016</b></p> <p><b>Speaker: Nate Bramsen</b></p> <p><b>Theme: Confronting Counterfeit Christianity</b></p> <p><b>Hidden Acres Christian Center Dayton, IA</b></p> <p><b>Registration deadline: February 2, 2016</b></p> <p><b>Register at: <a href="http://CMML.us/midwest26below">CMML.us/midwest26below</a></b></p>

SPACE IS LIMITED—REGISTER EARLY!

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Cost: \$60 for accommodations, \$30 for drive-ins  
Space is limited to 50 participants

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