

Missions



Bolivia

The Power of Discipleship

The Key to New
**MISSIONARY
EFFORTS**

Missionary Life
in **JAPAN**

TeamWorkers Abroad
Visits **PERU**



Thinking It Through

DAVID WILSON

Knowing God

John's Gospel has the stated purpose of convincing people who Jesus is, that through believing on Him they may have life in His name (John 20:30–31). Yet by the end of chapter 12, the Lord Jesus has withdrawn from the crowds to spend His last remaining hours with His disciples. While this may not seem to contribute to John's stated evangelistic purpose, it is in these five chapters of private instruction that we learn the glorious truth of this promised eternal life. It is far more than just endless life; it is an abundant, joyful life experienced in communion with the triune God (John 14:19–26; 17:3).

As Paul writes to the Ephesians, he expresses his deep desire for their spiritual progress (Ephesians 1:15–23) and, above all else, he longs that they might know God more fully and deeply. This can only come through God graciously granting wisdom and revelation by illuminating their hearts and minds. William MacDonald notes that "proper understanding of the divine realities is not dependent on our having keen intellects but rather tender hearts... God's revelations are given to those who love Him."¹ One of the marvelous functions of the incarnation is the unveiling of God in Christ (John 1:18). One of the precious functions of the Spirit of God in this age is to reveal the deep things of God to us (1 Corinthians 2:6–16), things that "eye has not seen, nor ear heard." (v. 9) These are not things we will learn only in glory, for "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit" now (v. 10). The fact that Paul prayed for this illumination demonstrates that these things do not come automatically but must be desired and sought after.

There are three supplementary things that Paul desires them to know through this spiritual illumination. First, he wants them to know "the hope of His calling." (Ephesians 1:18) Here is truth that transcends time. Our calling by God took place in the past, looks forward with confident expectation to the future, and sustains and encourages us in the present. Elsewhere, Paul tells us that we have been "called into the fel-

lowship of His Son" (1 Corinthians 1:9) and that we "have been called unto liberty." (Galatians 5:13) So he pleads with us to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1), living in the present in light of the future and pressing "toward the goal for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)

Second, Paul wants them to know "the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints." (Ephesians 1:18) This could mean the inheritance we will one day receive, but many scholars believe the point is that we are His inheritance! As inconceivable as it may seem, God views His "called-out ones" as a goodly inheritance, a pearl of great price, and wants us to know how much He treasures us. We cannot understand why God valued us but rejoice that He does!

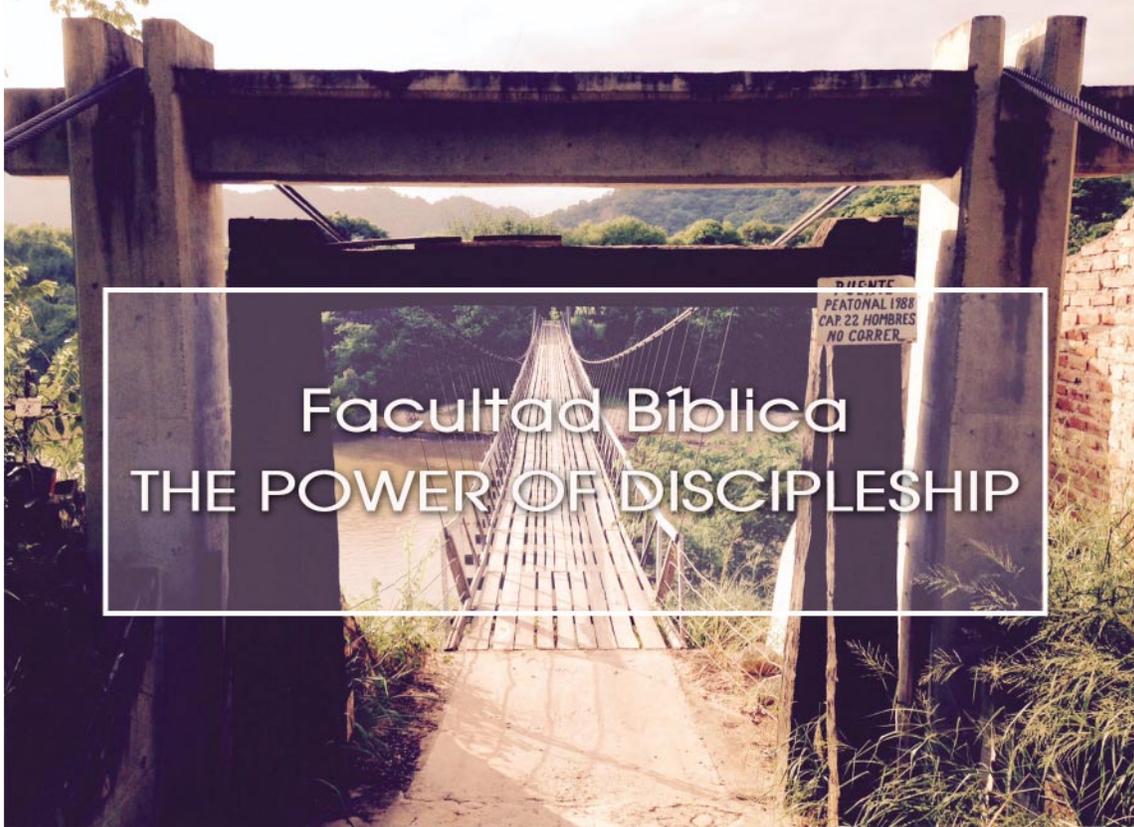
Third, He wants us to know "the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe." (Ephesians 1:19) The power that raised Christ from the dead, seated Him at God's right hand and exalted Him to be head of the Church is the same power that is at work in us and for us. The disciples were instructed to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high (Luke 24:49). That power was released on the day of Pentecost when, in answer to the prayer of the risen Lord, God sent forth the Holy Spirit to indwell and empower each believer in this dispensation. This promised Spirit of God is the only One who can bring conviction of sin (John 16:7–11), give spiritual illumination (1 Corinthians 2:11), and bring about regeneration and renewal (Titus 3:5). We can sow and we can water, but it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

Wouldn't it be wonderful to experience that power at work in our lives and ministries? Then let us pray earnestly that we and the local assemblies with which we fellowship may seek to know and experience that source of all power more intimately. ■

David and Beth Wilson serve in Ireland.

"proper understanding of the divine realities is not dependent on our having keen intellects but rather tender hearts..."

¹ MacDonald, William. *Believer's Bible Commentary* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995), 1913.



Facultad Bíblica THE POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP

BY CHRISTOPHER MATTIX

As Christians, we strive to follow in the footsteps of a carpenter from a small village in northern Israel, the One born in a manger and hung on a Roman cross. One who never wrote a book, was never among the wealthy or the royal, and instead was rejected and despised by His own people. Yet in just over three years, Jesus Christ transformed the world, putting in motion a radical movement that would spread like wildfire and fill every corner of the globe even today, 2000 years later.

How did He do it? What was His secret? Christ's method was unorthodox and surprisingly small-scale, rejecting money and fame to focus on a ragtag group of disciples. Describing who Jesus was, the emperor Napoleon said, "Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and I myself have founded great empires...upon force. Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions will die for Him." It was discipleship and the personal, relational touch of Jesus that transformed His disciples and followers, and they in kind impacted the world forever.

Facultad Bíblica: then and now

Many years ago, after seeing the need to prepare the next generation of leaders in Bolivia, my father, Mark Mattix, had the vision to start a Bible school focused on discipleship. The churches were growing, ministries were expanding, and a fervor for missions was awakening, but there was a void of solid Bible training for the next generation.

Our town in Camiri, Bolivia, provided an optimal place to start such a ministry as we were blessed with a large campsite just 15 minutes walking distance from downtown. The team was in place and teachers were carefully chosen. Yet the Bible school took some years to get started. Young people were enthusiastic but it didn't take off until parents and elders saw the need and got behind it.

Today, 15 years and some 280 alumni later, dozens of former students are in positions of responsibility in local churches. Some are involved in campus ministries, others are in new church plants, and several serve the Lord full-time. Since its start, the Bible school has been a boon for the two assemblies in Camiri with the infusion of energy and vision into Sunday school, youth group and kids' clubs as well as surrounding ministries.

My brother Jesse and his family served at the Bible school since it began and recently moved to Peru to help replicate the vision and train the next generation of leaders there. I joined the team here in Bolivia five years ago and have come to love this ministry, appreciating its current impact and hoping to be part of its longevity and expansion.

Our vision and method

Our purpose at the Bible school is to invest in the lives of key youth from around the country and elsewhere, focusing on intensive discipleship, college-level teaching, service, and

Above: The bridge to the Bible school, which retains the beams of the old bridge as a memory.



The first group of students in 2002.

discipline. A maximum of 22 students are accepted since one of our primary goals is to form a family atmosphere where discipleship and accountability can happen naturally, and disciplined lifestyles can be adequately honed.

We desire for these young men and women to return home with a toolbox, if you will, of learning and practice so that they might better help their local churches. It is greatly satisfying to hear how our students have become an integral part of their assemblies, eager to serve and edify the Church with their gifts.

I've often referred to the Bible school as a medieval monastery since students separate from family, friends, and other pursuits for one year to focus on the Word of God and their relationship with the Lord Jesus. The expectations are high, the schedule is tight, and the classes are challenging. Yet when all is said and done, the students form strong bonds with each other, feeling that they have found a new family here—a group which shares their love for the Lord and desire to serve Him. It is not uncommon to hear former students say that their time at the Bible school was the most formative and memorable year of their life. Thus our motto: "A year for the rest of your life."

■ A success story, as narrated by Mark Mattix

The most encouraging trend we see is couples launching out to serve as self-supporting workers. One outstanding example is Elí Antelo, who came from a poor family of subsistence farmers. He paid his way taking advantage of the work scholarship that Facultad Bíblica offers, and then he asked to stay on at the dairy farm in order to pay his way through college. He met Raquel, a Bible school student from Santa Cruz, and they were married. The Lord put on his heart the need for the Gospel in a remote town in a deep valley west of here, San Juan del Piray, where we had visited on a missions trip while he was at Facultad Bíblica.

When he consulted me about commendation, I explained that the assembly in Camiri was nearly overextended, already supporting two families full-time and giving partial support for other workers. So I encouraged him to take a step of faith and try to use his profession. It's a wonderful



Elí and Raquel before they were married.

story how the Lord opened doors for Elí and Raquel; in spite of privations and hardships, they saw such great fistfuls of spiritual fruit that they were encouraged to keep on. Christians from Camiri and Santa Cruz helped them at critical times. Eventually a mission-minded assembly in New Zealand sponsored a project on their behalf, setting him up with a carpentry shop. A church has been planted in San Juan and the small chapel that the local believers built is now overcrowded. Raquel has a large children's club for school children after class hours. They visit a number of surrounding towns, ranches, and villages and encourage the new believers to do the same. So the work in San Juan has been a missionary church right from the start.

■ The dangers of biblical education

To teach well and to inspire students to really love the Word is a great feat, yet helping them to apply this to their lives is one of the greatest challenges faced. There is perhaps nothing more detrimental to the work and dishonoring to the Lord than a person who is full of knowledge of the Word yet unwilling to apply it to his or her life and truly serve his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Being a graduate of a Bible college myself, I greatly appreciated all the incredible knowledge to be had as I saw Scripture opened as an ocean of delightful and deep truth. But Satan is so very clever, knowing that intellect can soon become pride, and a desire to serve can soon be replaced with endless squabbles over secondary differences.

I enjoy teaching four of the Bible school's 14 modules. I often tell my students that if I fill their minds with intellect but do not strive to help them put it into practice, then I have failed them as a teacher. Christ Himself said many times that His true disciples were those who heard His word and obeyed it.

The danger is intellectual pride, but the cure is not to be against intellect. We are never called to leave our brains at the door; instead we must long to be a lifelong student of the Word.

The cure for intellectual pride is to ensure that the connection between intellect and the heart is intact. What we learn from Scripture must impact what we do, how we live, and how we serve others. Humility therefore is the key, a characteristic that perhaps best defines our Savior. One who, being the

Creator and King of Kings, stooped so low as to wash the feet of His disciples.

The future is bright

Hundreds of students from Bolivia and South America have passed through Facultad Bíblica. In turn, they have impacted innumerable churches, ministries, and lives. We are so thankful to the Lord for this opportunity to be a part of such a transformative movement, yet we also long to see it improve continually. Our quest is to seek how to best utilize the various resources we have to better equip young people. The group we impact may seem small, but the effects have been incalculable. Jesus didn't really have that big of a following either, yet His method changed the world forever. Why shouldn't we strive to replicate it? ■

Learn More & Get Involved

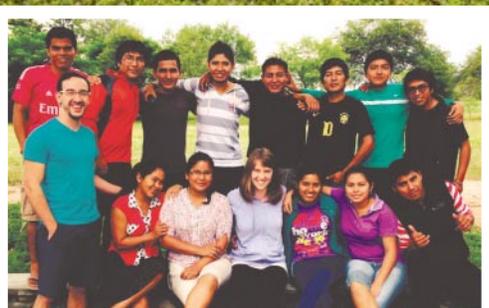
Facultad Bíblica has had students from Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, and even the U.S. Perhaps you know someone who might benefit from Bible training and personal exposure to missions. Visit our website: FBCamiri.org. You might also consider partnering with us in this ministry by sending a missions team to help improve our infrastructure or by supporting the scholarship program.



Christopher Mattix was commended in 2013 by North Lynnwood Bible Chapel, Lynnwood, Washington.



Clockwise from far left: The farm's natural beauty; Property's sports field; The yearly alumni retreat in 2016; The students and me in 2015.



Interview with Nelly Heikoop



A First-Year Missionary Shares about Daily Life

Commended in 2015 by Bethel-Park Bible Chapel, Brantford, Ontario, Nelly serves in Takasaki City, Japan (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 9). She currently focuses on language learning, making friends, and sharing about the Lord whenever possible. We recently asked Nelly if she would share what her daily life is like in this new place of service.

What foods do you eat?

Supper always includes Japanese white rice, which I think is the best on the planet. We may have fish or chicken and a vegetable or salad. A popular veggie is white radish, which resembles a huge white carrot and tastes a bit like turnip. There are not many varieties of fruit or vegetables in Japan but hundreds of different kinds of fish and seafood. Surprisingly, raw fish is not so bad. In fact, I really enjoy it as I do a lot of Japanese foods, but I'm not crazy about octopus or a dish called nattō. It's a slimy, fermented bean dish that has a strong flavor. Recently, I tried cow stomach and throat. I think that was the last time I'll eat that, as long as I don't offend anyone.

How do you get around?

I use the transportation system, but it takes far too much time. While owning a car is unnecessary in large cities like Tokyo, most people in my province have one. It doesn't take long to notice that the Japanese really like to drive shiny new cars. I often see older men cruising around in expensive sports vehicles. Recently, God has provided a car for me, so I look forward to having wheels soon but not to driving on the left side of the road!

What cultural behavior do you find interesting?

It's interesting that people wear slippers everywhere. In homes, some restaurants, churches and even the changing rooms of department stores, it is expected that you remove your shoes and wear the slippers provided or bring your own. It's not uncommon to find a different set of slippers in the bathroom to be switched out for the ones you are wearing.

What is a typical day for you?

In the morning, I take my bicycle to the train station where I leave it for the day. A 15-minute train ride and a 20-minute walk gets me to school. I have four hours of Japanese lessons in a little classroom packed with 21 students, all from other

Asian countries. During break I chat with the ones who are not sleeping or on their cell phones. On my way home I pass a fruit and vegetable shop where I buy mandarins and veggies. At home, or a coffee shop, of which there are many in Japan, I study to prepare for the many tests we get. Little takes place in the evenings here because men, especially, get home so late from work. My chapel, for example, has no evening meetings. They all happen in the mornings and on weekends. I use evenings to write emails, work on projects and missions-related items, study more and talk with family and friends. When I have my own apartment, I plan to invite people over as much as possible. While hospitality is rare in Japan, I've discovered that it is much appreciated. My day starts and ends in the Word and in prayer and it is my greatest source of strength.

How do you relax?

I relax in much the same way I did back in Canada. I play piano, go for walks, shop at fun places like the dollar store or a local secondhand shop, talk on the phone or scroll through Facebook. When I'm set up for it, I plan to do some oil painting.

How do you get to know people?

Usually, I look for opportunities to get into a conversation with people and the rest just happens. I make appointments to go for coffee or just meet people in organizations they attend. For example, some Wednesdays I go to an English club where people hang out, drink coffee and practice speaking English. Here, I've had many amazing opportunities to share the Gospel with eager listeners. On Sundays, I approach people to engage in conversation, while prepared to make lots of language errors. I use "sumimasen, wakarimasen" (excuse me, I don't understand) more than I care to admit. However, they are so patient with me.

I need a lot more of Jesus and a lot less of me.

What is challenging?

Definitely the language. There is no option but to study very hard and practice as much as possible. It can be disheartening when you get almost nothing out of the breaking of bread on Sunday or the message. It's hard not to feel dumb when someone asks you a simple question, and you didn't catch a word. I get tired of admitting I can't understand. Children chatter at me and I keep saying "really?" hoping it will suffice.

What is exciting?

I experience many exciting things in Japan. When someone expresses an interest in Christ, every challenge is suddenly worth it all. It is so thrilling! Making progress with language is also rewarding. Recently, I gave a speech in Japanese and it was a mountaintop experience. Speaking of mountains, they are exciting! Their jagged peaks and variety of trees make for beautiful scenery. My city is surrounded by them and they keep calling me to come and explore. I haven't had the opportunity to hike yet, but I look very forward to that someday.

How can we pray for you?

If you read this and pray for me, I would like to thank you very much. I value prayer more than gold. You could pray for the following items.

1. Stamina—if I had more energy, I could do more.
2. Revival in Japan's churches. We desperately need that.
3. That I would get into the practice of praying more. I need a lot more of Jesus and a lot less of me.
4. For Mr. R, an outgoing young Vietnamese in my class, and Miss Y, a single middle-aged friend. I long to see them in heaven someday. ■



From top: Where I ate cow stomach and throat with my Japanese host family—note the paper bibs; Example of a restaurant meal; Takasaki Train Station; Shimokotori Chapel.



Home with the Lord

Sheldon Crutchfield

Missionary to Hong Kong • January 3, 1940—March 7, 2016

Born in Florida on January 3, 1940, Sheldon Fiske Crutchfield graduated from Hampden DuBose Academy. While attending summer camp at Camp Didakee, Sheldon accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior.

On December 22, 1967, he married Nisa Walker at Hollywood Bible Chapel. In their early years of marriage they lived in Ft Lauderdale, Florida, where Sheldon taught fourth grade at Coral Springs Elementary, and he ministered as a youth leader at Hollywood Bible Chapel. While attending a missions conference in 1972, Sheldon and Nisa were called by God to missionary service. In 1974, they were commended by Hollywood Bible Chapel and moved to Hong Kong.

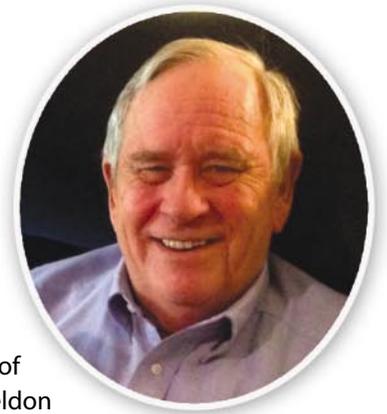
Sheldon taught English and Bible classes at a Chinese school for five years. In 1979, with the sudden influx of Vietnamese refugees after the Vietnam War, Sheldon and Nisa felt called to meet the great needs of the people in the refugee camps. They held Bible studies, taught English and prepared refugees for resettlement in other countries. They worked primarily with Vietnamese refugees for 20 years. It was during this time that many seeds were planted, watered, and nurtured in the hearts of the Vietnamese people—seeds that bore much fruit in the following years.

After Hong Kong closed its doors to refugees, Sheldon's ministry expanded geographically. He traveled to Vietnam to disciple and mentor believers who came to know the Lord in Hong Kong. He traveled into China, taking Bibles and Christian literature and held weekly Bible studies in homes of Chinese Christians. He traveled to the Philippines to disciple and encourage his spiritual children who came to know the Lord in Hong Kong and then returned to a remote Filipino village to plant first one church and then others.

Sheldon established a church in his Hong Kong home that is attended primarily by Filipino women who work in Hong Kong as domestic workers. He preached, discipled, and shepherded this small congregation for 20 years. In November 2015, in anticipation of their retirement from the mission field, Sheldon and Nisa hosted a celebration of 41 years in Asia. People from six continents attended and gave glory to God for

the years of ministry He gave to the Crutchfields.

Sheldon desired to reflect God's heart for others; he began this by faithfully serving in his own home, caring for the needs of his wife and children. Sheldon always showed his family that they were a top priority. Many times he would be exhausted after traipsing around Hong Kong and meeting with people to further the refugee work (this kind of work could be all-consuming), but we remember him being at our dinner table engaging us in conversation about our day, giving us the sense that our lives were equally important to his ministry.



He carried his compassionate service to those who needed it most. He often referred to Isaiah 58 as what God calls us to do in His service, and he sought to live out this calling: "Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him.... Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard." (Isaiah 58:6-8)

It brought him so much joy to spend time visiting those under oppression, those kept from resources of the Gospel and God's Word, and to share his life and learning with them. He was an avid student of the Bible, digging deeply into its pages, finding treasure and dispensing that treasure to those whose spirits longed for Christian fellowship and teaching.

Sheldon was dedicated to service for his Lord in every area of his life. He loved the Lord with all his heart, and we rejoice that he is now in the presence of the Lord he loved so much.

SARAH CRUTCHFIELD LOGAN AND CATHY CRUTCHFIELD YOUNG



The Local Church

Key to New Missionary Efforts

BY BRAD DICKSON

Midnight, December 31, 1978. I'm sitting in a meeting with hundreds of other students from assemblies across North America gathered for a missionary conference. A gifted and convincing speaker makes a vibrant appeal: "Who will go into God's harvest field?" I feel convicted, the Spirit of God is working in me, I get up, go forward and a counsellor prays for me. This is it, I tell myself, I'm on my way!

But once in my bed that night a tidal wave of questions submerged me: Go where? Go how? Go with what money? Go to do what? Go with what guidance? Go under whose authority? All of a sudden, I realized that the first people I needed to talk to were the elders of my assembly, who were far from suspecting that I had a missionary calling! My actual commendation only came seven years later, in God's good timing.

In this article, we will briefly examine two key New Testament texts that clearly place the responsibility of sending missionaries on the local church and its leaders.

Antioch: who sent out the first missionaries?

“Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:1–4)

In this text, Luke implies that sending a missionary is a “team sport” in which three key partners engage: the Holy Spirit, the local church, and the missionaries.

The Holy Spirit emerges from the text as sovereign over the sending process. He takes the initiative. He speaks to the missionaries, calling them to His service and He speaks to the church, asking the believers to set Paul and Barnabas apart for missions. Luke concludes that the missionaries go out “sent by the Holy Spirit.” What an encouragement yesterday and today for both the Church and missionaries to know that they are engaged in an adventure that is not human, but divine!

But the local church and its leaders are also seen as key players in the text. They are exemplary in their prayerfulness, in their concern to seek God’s will and in their generosity. They agree to free up their founding fathers, Barnabas and Paul, for missions. They publically lay hands on them, signifying their blessing on this project as well as their spiritual and financial solidarity with the missionaries. They are willing to renounce the privilege of good local leadership in order that the Good News be taken afar. Unfortunately, some local churches sadden the Spirit by not encouraging the sending out of new missionaries, particularly when they are promising or proven workers.

{ ...three key partners engage: the Holy Spirit, the local church, and the missionaries.



We can also understand that the missionaries were fully invested in this process. In Antioch, the first non-Jewish church, Barnabas and Paul saw God fulfill before their eyes the wonderful news of Pentecost: the Gospel is for every nation! They could not ignore the fact that an unlimited and virgin mission field beyond desperately needed the Gospel. We can easily imagine them repeatedly sharing this burden with their fellow elders and the assembly. Was this what provoked the time of prayer and fasting during which the Spirit spoke in verse 2?

Most English translations state in verse 3 that the Church “sent them off.” In reality, the Greek verb “apoluo” would better be translated “released them,” which is the way the majority of the French Bibles translate this verse. Could this mean that Barnabas and Paul had been chomping at the bit for some time? Had the assembly been hesitating? Whatever the discussions and the decision making process, in the end, the Spirit triumphs and the missionaries leave with the full blessing of God and the church.

Rome: a second Antioch?

About 11 years and three extended missionary journeys later, Paul felt as though his responsibility toward Asia Minor and Greece was finished. His heart now bled for Spain, the far west of the Roman Empire and unbroken ground as far as the Gospel was concerned.¹ He needed a solid sending church that would partner with him in this new project. But at that time, with the limited means of communication and difficult travel conditions, Antioch was too far from Spain to be a helpful base. Paul saw strategically that the church in Rome would



Elders and the entire assembly must encourage missions.

It may have been tempting for Paul to cease his demonstration at this point, leaving the responsibility for missions on individual Christians to get up and go. But he didn't stop there. He pushed his description of the missionary supply chain back one more vital step, to the source, the Church. What has to happen in order for there to be missionaries? Do they spring into life and ministry by spontaneous generation? Is it sufficient to gather a large crowd of young people and to challenge them with the Macedonian call? No. They must be "sent."

The process then, starts with the local church. Elders and the entire assembly must encourage missions and help gifted and dedicated believers to discern if the Holy Spirit desires to send them out. In today's complex world, churches need to partner with missions organizations like MSC, CMML and sometimes other specialized missions and training institutes to get and keep their missionary on the field. The experienced advice and help these organizations can give will reassure and facilitate the whole process for both church leaders and missionary candidates.

Conclusion

After the Holy Spirit, the local church is the key player in the challenge to get new missionaries to the field. Many are praying today that the Lord would send more laborers into the harvest. For that to take place, we need churches that are alert, motivated, passionate and intentional about missions. We need churches ready to send their most gifted members and leaders. We need elders and congregations tuned into the Holy Spirit, who is still in the business of sending out missionaries! ■



Brad and Catherine Dickson were commended in 1985 by Fairhaven Bible Chapel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Assiniboia Charleswood Community Church, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

¹ Romans 15:20-24 "There is no more place for me to work in these regions...and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there."

² In Romans 2:16 and 16:25 Paul uses the expression "my Gospel," meaning, my understanding of the Gospel.

be the ideal stepping-stone from which to reach Spain. He wrote to convince them of the necessity of this project and asked them to assist him: "I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there." (Romans 15:23-24)

In this light, the whole epistle can be read as a plea for missions. Paul wanted to convince the Roman believers of the necessity of missions and to ensure that they share the same understanding of the Gospel as he.² This is why in the first three chapters he hammers the truth of God's universal and just condemnation of sinners and of the resulting perdition of all. All need to hear and to believe the Gospel in order to be saved.

In chapters 9 through 11, Paul builds a convincing argument about God's sovereignty over missions. God has a merciful plan for Jews and Greeks that He is working out. But His sovereignty does not excuse us from spreading the Gospel—on the contrary! In Romans 10:13-15, Paul pleads passionately for the church in Rome (and churches today) to send out missionaries: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"

The Apostle gives us a simple, synthetic yet incisive view of the missionary process. Starting with salvation, the desired effect, he backtracks along the logical steps necessary for people to be saved. To be saved, men must call upon Christ. To do this, they must believe. In order to believe, they must hear the Gospel. For them to hear the Gospel, there must be missionaries.

Be AVAILABLE and FLEXIBLE

TeamWorkers Abroad Visits Strong Tower

BY FRED SCOTT

The need to be available and flexible became obvious during a recent short-term trip to help the spread of the Gospel in Peru.

TeamWorkers Abroad, which organizes trips to assist assembly missionaries with building projects, heard that Tom Clark (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 26) needed help to add additional classrooms to Strong Tower Christian School. Unfortunately, although people were interested in helping, no one was available to lead the trip or participate before the school year started.

After the disappointment of not being able to help with this project, it was announced that Peru's starting date for school was extended until March 15. Just in time, a passport arrived, appointments were completed, a video conference call was made, and suddenly it was possible for a team to be available for the work. We would leave in two weeks!

The school & the team

Located in the southwest side of Ferrenafe, Peru, Strong Tower Christian School has added one grade per year for the last nine years and currently has classes for preschool to seventh grade. With new grades being added, new classroom buildings are necessary. Two years ago, TeamWorkers Abroad helped when the second and third floors were added to an existing building. This year, a new building was being added to

the facility. Tom Clark has local workers put up the structure, and then various individuals and teams help with windows, doors, painting, electrical wiring and other needs that arise.

Lake Country Bible Chapel in Ankeny, Iowa, has been involved with several missionaries, including commending Laura Messerly (MPH Day 27) as a teacher to Strong Tower Christian School. When a TeamWorkers Abroad trip is proposed, the assembly leadership considers who is the best fit and then stands behind them with prayer and financial support. For this trip, the team included Mark, who owns a construction company with his brother, his teenage daughter Hadassah and myself (from High Point Bible Chapel in Davenport, Iowa).

The project

The day we arrived we became familiar with the facilities and assessed what work needed to be tackled. The doors and windows in the third floor classrooms had to be reinstalled, a door and window needed to be constructed for the teachers' lounge, and the new building required windows to be constructed and installed and doors put in. There was also the annual painting of the buildings inside and out, due to the poor quality paint available.

The next day, supplies were delivered and the work started. Mark took on the project of resetting the doors and windows in the third-floor classrooms, which was more difficult than anticipated. After the white base coat was applied to the stairwell, it was determined that a mural was needed to cover the many fingerprints. Laura and Hadassah were assigned to design and implement this project. The third area of work was to turn 10-foot boards into small pieces to construct the new doors and windows. Several days were spent just ripping and cutting the boards to the correct size.



From left: Sidewalk to the new building; Carol decorating the sidewalk.

Getting acquainted with Peru

Saturday, Sunday and the evenings were set aside to enjoy the local flavor. Some evenings the “old men” spent time catching up with the folks back home via the Internet or just resting and avoiding mosquitoes. Laura’s youthful enthusiasm enabled her to be a great hostess to Hadassah as she showed her the local hiking places, evening soccer games and had her to her home. On Saturday we went to the seashore, ate the local cuisine, and had a combi ride. Sunday we visited the local market, participated with the saints as they met around the Lord’s Table, and Hadassah went to the Sunday school class in Laura’s house. Tuesday night was prayer meeting and then to a surprise birthday party for Laura. Peruvians know how to celebrate!

Work accomplished, more work to be done

As the time to leave drew near, it became obvious that not everything would be in place before we left. However, the classrooms and teachers’ lounge on the third floor had all the doors and windows in place (including two bathroom doors in each classroom). The mural, which incorporated the teachers’ handprints and provided visual instruction from Jeremiah 17:7–8, looked wonderful. All the rest of the windows were painted and put together, ready to be installed. Our closing comment was that if we had another person or another day the work would have been completed.

Many lives impacted

Another school year has started and people’s lives are being impacted. The children have a nice environment to study in and learn about the Lord Jesus

From left: Mark and Hadassah ready to go; Stairway to second floor.



Fred and Sue Scott are commended to the ministry of TeamWorkers Abroad by High Point Bible Chapel in Davenport, Iowa.

Below, top (L-R): Mural tree; Laura painting.



PERU

Learn more!

Visit TeamWorkersAbroad.org and MorningstarPeru.org/strong-tower.html to find out more about these ministries.

May We Introduce

Eddie

Missionary to Special Areas

Born and raised in South Carolina, I grew up going to church but never professed or put my faith in Jesus Christ as a child. In my teenage years, I became very skeptical of Christianity. I saw much hypocrisy in so-called Christians and saw Christians who lacked love for others. I became angry with God and would tell you there is no God. Because of all the hypocrisy I experienced, I said I'd never step foot in another church. In my early 20s, a friend invited me to a Bible study at his house. I began to attend, and as we studied Scripture a couple of things started to happen. First, I started to investigate the truth of Christianity, reading the Bible and books defending the Christian faith. But at the same time, I also investigated other religions, such as Islam and Buddhism. In addition

It has been a great honor and privilege to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

to this, I also researched the truth of the Bible and science in regard to creation. I was a true skeptic in every way and was

determined to not find the truth I was looking for in the Bible and the Christian faith. Finally, after five years of seeking, I became convinced of the truth of the Bible, the Christian faith, and Jesus Christ. But even then, I still did not want to let go. After much struggle and conviction of sin, I placed my faith in Jesus Christ when I was 28 years old.

After coming to faith in Jesus Christ, I became involved in my local church and studied the Word as much as possible. As I grew in the next two or three years, I let go of more and

more things of the world and gave them to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. After this, I decided to attend a Bible college where I could study God's Word in depth on a daily basis. I spent the next three years at Emmaus Bible College and grew tremendously, not knowing that God was preparing me for my work in Special Areas.

As a college student, three things happened that led me to the mission field. First, there was a professor who challenged students about missions and serving Jesus Christ. Second, during my time at Bible College, I took two short-term trips to Mexico and lived with a Mexican family during these visits. This opened my eyes to the world and people's real need of Jesus Christ. Third, as all these other things were happening, I had great interest every time I heard about my future country of service. I didn't know it at the time, but now I know it was the Holy Spirit's leading and guiding.

Then, in the summer of 2004, the year before I was to graduate from Bible college, I visited my country of interest for seven weeks. I learned about the culture as I visited many places. This short trip confirmed what that "interest" (the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit) was in me—that this country is the place God wants me to be.

I have served here for 11 years and can honestly say I would not change for anything in the world. There is nothing I would rather do at this time. I have perfect peace and complete joy. Many people say it is a sacrifice to serve our Lord Jesus, but it has been a great honor and privilege to serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and not a sacrifice at all. Looking at the cross, we see what Christ sacrificed for us and see how little we do for Him. "The love of Christ compels me." ■

Pray For Missionary Kids!

Did you know that 336 children are listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*? They each face unique circumstances and appreciate your prayers. Please remember to pray for missionary children each day.



Missionary kids at the 2015 European Christian Workers' Conference—Photo by Craig Fritchey