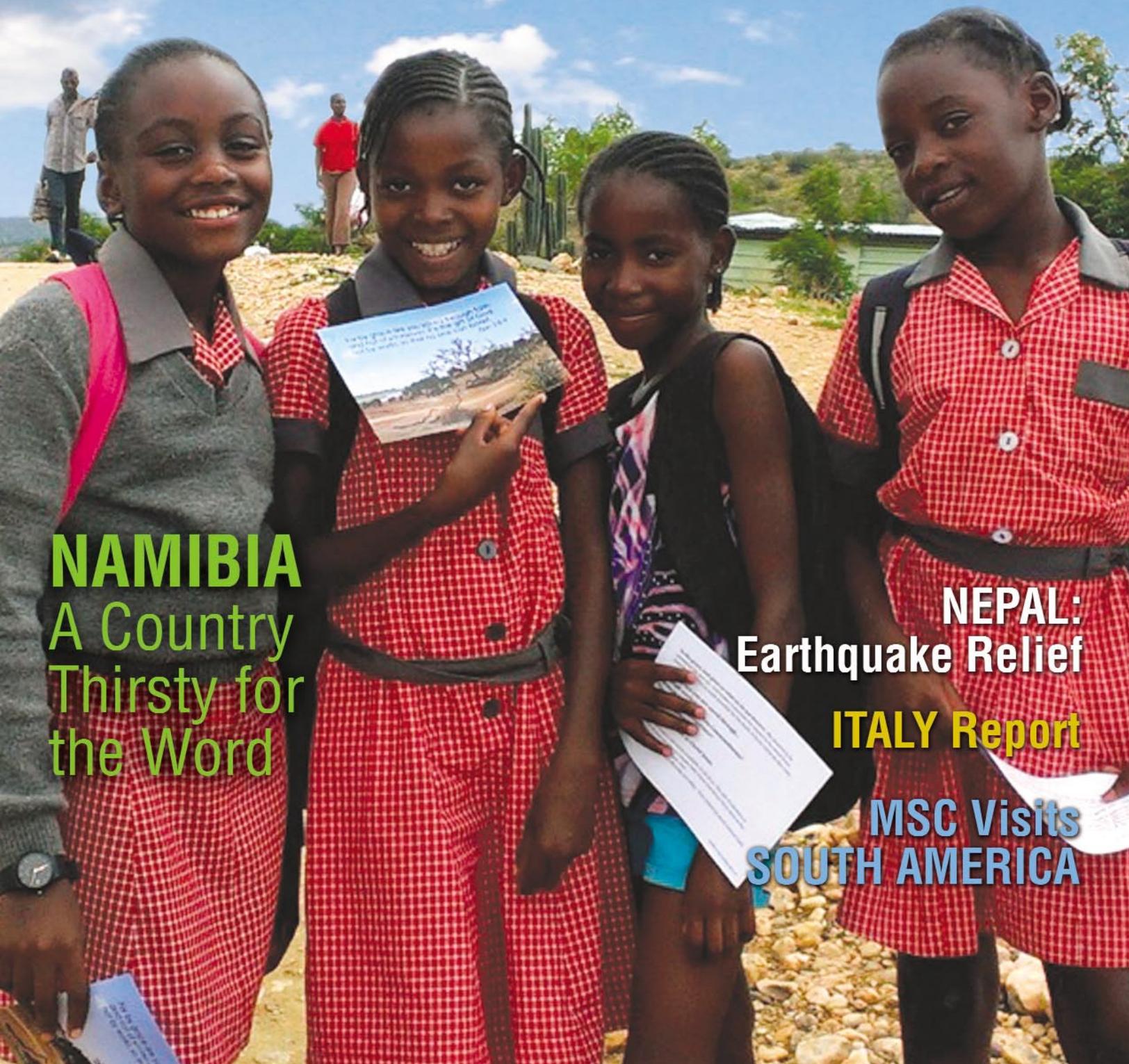


Missions



NAMIBIA
A Country
Thirsty for
the Word

NEPAL:
Earthquake Relief

ITALY Report

**MSC Visits
SOUTH AMERICA**



Thinking It Through

WILLIAM YUILLE

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts

Colossians 3:15

The verb “rule” was used of an umpire making a decision in the games. Therefore, when we find ourselves in some situation which calls for a decision and we settle on a certain course of action, we should allow the peace of Christ to arbitrate as umpire. In other words, if we have inner peace about what is proposed, then we take that as an indication from the Lord that we are doing what He desires; and, if we don’t have such peace in our hearts, then we should reconsider.

We might choose to apply the text to ourselves in this way, but I doubt that Paul is speaking in Colossians 3:15 about peace as a subjective guide to decision making. His concern is corporate. Notice that he refers to “the peace of Christ.”¹ That isn’t the peace which He Himself enjoyed, the peace He bestowed on His disciples when He said, “My peace I give to you.”² It is rather the peace which He established, what we find in Colossians Chapter 1: “having made peace through the blood of His cross.”³ This is peace between God and ourselves in that we who once were alienated now have been reconciled.

Moreover, our text refers to the peace “to which also you were called in one body.” The letter to the Ephesians reminds us that peace has been established not only between God and ourselves but also among us. Jews and Gentiles were far apart from each other, but “He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace... And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.”⁴ So it is that Jews and Gentiles are incorporated as equal partners into the living organism which is the body of Christ. And in this body “there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”⁵ This is the peace which Christ has established and to which “you were called in one body,” and the maintenance of that peace should settle all questions and disputes.

It means that we don’t allow anything to disrupt the unity that obtains within the body. It happens all too often. Someone lacking sensitivity does or says things that are hurtful. Someone who is oversensitive takes offence needlessly. Strong personalities clash and refuse to yield. Envy and jealousy give rise to a spirit of rivalry. Disagreement arises over some practice or doctrine. Unfortunately, we know something about this in the history of our assemblies where differences have brought divisions and continue to prevent fellowship. Of course, there are truths which are non-negotiable for which we must stand without compromise. But if we are going to make an issue about something, we should make sure that it warrants our doing so, recognizing that it is a very serious thing to bring division among the people of God. And where differences arise on non-essentials, rather than dwell upon these we should hold on to what we have in common and look to one another, not with fear and suspicion but with humility, respect and love.

The importance of this is surely emphasized by the frequent New Testament references to it:

“If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live *peaceably* with all men.”⁶

“Therefore, let us pursue the things which make for *peace* and the things by which one may edify another.”⁷

“Live in *peace*; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”⁸

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of *peace*.”⁹

“Be at *peace* among yourselves.”¹⁰

“Pursue righteousness, faith, love, *peace* with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”¹¹

“Pursue *peace* with all people.”¹²

“Let him seek *peace* and pursue it.”¹³ ■

William Yuille is MSC Canada’s vice president.

¹ The KJV and NKJV refer to “the peace of God” but in other translations based on a different Greek text we find “the peace of Christ”; ² John 14:27;

³ Colossians 1:20; ⁴ Ephesians 2:14-17; ⁵ Colossians 3:11; ⁶ Romans 12:18; ⁷ Romans 14:19; ⁸ 2 Corinthians 13:11; ⁹ Ephesians 4:3; ¹⁰ 1 Thessalonians 5:13;

¹¹ 2 Timothy 2:22; ¹² Hebrews 12:14; ¹³ 1 Peter 3:11

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FRONT COVER: School girls holding gospel texts in Namibia—Julie Frank

BACK COVER: Carpathian mountains—©iStockPhoto.com/Andrew_Mayovsky



Nepal

Earthquake Relief Missions Trip

BY JAMES AN AND SIMEON PARK

The country of Nepal was struck by an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on April 25, 2015. The ensuing destruction caused precious monuments and landmarks to be damaged and changed forever. Approximately 9,000 people lost their lives because of this devastating quake and its forthcoming aftershocks. How was the Lord going to use six believers in this time of need to fulfill His purpose?

Introduction to Nepal

A landlocked country of 30 million people, Nepal is wedged between geographical and geopolitical giants China, to its northern border, and India, to its southern border. Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, is inhabited by 6 million residents and is a hub of cultural and historical beauty. The country is still developing and the GDP per capita is just over \$700 per year. The country is located in the Himalayas and contains many mountainous areas and large peaks, including Mount Everest, the highest point on earth. More than 80 percent of Nepalese people practice Hinduism, with Buddhism being practiced by about 9 percent. A mere 1.5 percent practice Christianity, but that number is increasing at an annual growth rate of 15 percent. In this land, a small nation encompassed by much larger nations in size, scope, and global importance, the Lord used us to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

There are a total of 13 assemblies throughout Nepal, of which 10 were started by two Korean missionaries. Thankfully, there was no report of death among the brethren, despite 80 of their homes being destroyed or damaged by the earthquake. This is partly because many of the believers were at their respective chapels, away from their homes, when the first earthquake hit. A few of the assemblies have been damaged,

with Machchhegaun assembly taking the hardest hit. Many of the believers are living out of tents, exposed to dangers.

DUDREAM's first missions trip

DUDREAM (which stands for Diaspora United, Discipling Reaching Empowering Abiding Ministering) organizes a semi-annual retreat for Korean and Korean-American young people from around the United States for fellowship and to learn from the Word with those from a Brethren background. (Visit www.DUDREAM.org for more information.) A short-term missions team from the Korean assemblies, called the Vision Team, has been running kids' programs annually for the past 12 years, and this was a part of the inspiration to select Nepal as the destination for DUDREAM's first missions trip.

The team

Our team to Nepal included six people.

James An, vice president of DUDREAM, currently resides in the Houston area and attends First Colony Bible Chapel. James was instrumental in organizing relief aid. He continues to lead DUDREAM with a fervent heart for the Lord.

Ghana Kang, James's wife and a physician at Baylor College



Mission team at Khushi Khushi Hotel.
Left to right: James An, Ghana Kang,
 Yoon Koh, CJ Ahn, Joon Lee, Simeon Park.

of Medicine, was responsible for medical missions. This was Ghana's second mission trip to Nepal after 10 years.

CJ Ahn, founder and president of DUDREAM, also lives in the Houston area and attends First Colony Bible Chapel. CJ and his wife Yoon used their God-given musical talent to lead the praise times.

Yoon, a professor at the University of Houston, also provided invaluable skills and expertise vital to our trip.

Joon Lee, a student from the Houston area, and **Simeon Park**, a student from Gainesville, Florida, were co-leaders for recreational games and activities for the children. They planned games and presented them to the children. Joon's kindhearted nature was welcomed on our trip and he provided his fair share of laughs and smiles. This was Simeon's first missions trip. He was inspired by the willingness of the saints in Nepal to live for the Lord and to continue on, despite the dreadfulness caused by earthquakes.

How the trip came to be

James An began coordinating this trip as early as mid-2014 in preparation for an expansion of DUDREAM's outreach and ministry. James and Geun-Min (GM) Choi, a missionary in Nepal, originally had planned to conduct a VBS-type program for the

children and to visit various local assemblies throughout Nepal. By March 2015, much of the preparation for the kids' program was completed—praise, games, sports, arts and crafts and various classes—but all that changed when the earthquake hit on April 25. At that point, we were almost certain that the trip would be canceled. GM Choi's final recommendation to us in his own words were, "Come if you are ready to suffer together." This was one reason why we would still be some help.

Preparation for the kids' program still worked out nicely because children had been out of school for a month by the time we arrived in Nepal. In addition to the kids' program, we had prepared a small quantity of water filters and solar lanterns to bring to Nepal. GM Choi asked us to turn our group into a relief aid team, if possible. Many individuals and assemblies started making donations: CMML, First Colony Bible Chapel and Washington Korean Assembly, among others. Everyone was very gracious with donations that enabled us to prepare much needed relief supplies, including 45 water filters, 100 solar lanterns, 1,000 masks, solar batteries, chargers, sanitizers, food and medicine. Water filters and solar lanterns were purchased with the help of E3Empower (E3Empower.com) and medicine through the help of Blessings International (Blessing.org). We want to thank all those who prayed and supported the cause with us.

Where and how we served

GM Choi provided a "base camp" at a hotel named Khushi Khushi Hotel (literally Happiness Happiness Hotel) that he runs in Machchhegaun, a village in Kathmandu, the capital city. GM Choi has served the Lord in Nepal for more than 15 years and continues to do His work and to be of service to the five assemblies in the Kathmandu area. The names of the five assemblies that our team ministered to in the Kathmandu area are: Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kathmandu, Machchhegaun and Kapan. Due to uncertain road conditions, we were unable to visit assemblies in remote areas. At each assembly we kicked things off with praise, followed by games for the children and then medical check-ups in parallel. We closed the program by showing them how to use the various resources we provided such as water filtration systems, solar lanterns, chargers and sanitizers.

In addition, GM Choi runs a school called New Horizon Academy (NHA.edu.np). Our team provided lectures on our professions (e.g. medicine, finance, technology and entrepre-



Clockwise from left: The Machchhegaun assembly building was severely damaged—the second and third floors are no longer usable; The team preparing, providing and explaining how to use the water filtration system and solar lanterns; Medical missions led by Dr. Ghana Kang.



Clockwise from left: CJ and Yoon leading praises at various assemblies; New Horizon Academy students; Assembly children enjoying the singing.

neurship) to ninth and 10th graders while playing sports and games with sixth through eighth graders. We also provided water filtration systems, sanitizers, solar lanterns and chargers to NHA. Many of the NHA staff and teachers, including the principal, became believers over the years, which is how the assembly in Machchhegaun was formed.



In all of this, we were surprised at how welcoming and loving the believers were and how they embraced us. A powerful moment for our team was when one of the elders, the principal of New Horizon Academy, addressed all of the school's students on the first day back from the earthquake and said in English, "How great this is that [our brothers and sisters] have come to suffer with us, to cry with us." Another brother told us that many of the NGO workers returned to their home countries as soon as the earthquake hit, but our team came to help when it was most difficult. It reminded us of our own relationship with Christ from Romans 5:6, 8: "For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Brother Raj Yelmo from Lalitpur Assembly told us a story about the time during the earthquake when he told all the believers, "Everyone, grab the pillar!" in reference to one of the pillars that stood in the center of their chapel. Everyone listened to Raj and held onto the pillar for dear life. The Lord's people suffering like this was very hard for us to hear. However, to know that we all have assurance in Christ, that this suffering was not in vain, made these types of stories and moments easier to bear. James was given an opportunity to speak at Machchhegaun assembly. The title of the message was "Rebuilding" from the book of Nehemiah. He ended the message by asking all believers to read aloud Nehemiah 8:10b three times. "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Believers to the rescue

During our stay, two brothers representing Open Door Ministry (a Korean organization similar to CMML) visited Nepal, bringing much needed relief aid from many of the assemblies and believers in Korea. We also heard that efforts were devel-

oping in Japan and Singapore. This is a true demonstration of the universal Church coming together in prayers and support of a hurting member of the body in Nepal.

Conclusion

Our resources and manpower were limited; however, we are so thankful that the Lord still used us for His glory and for the edification of the body. Even still, please continue to pray for the believers and unbelievers in Nepal. Many are suffering and live in fear. We believe that God would use this opportunity to call to all the lost souls in Nepal. May His grace and mercy be upon them that they may come to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.

"For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." (Job 19:25) ■

James An is in fellowship at First Colony Bible Chapel in the Houston area. Simeon Park is in fellowship at Bible Truth Chapel in Gainesville, Florida.



Top: Simeon and Joon playing kickball with the students. **Bottom (L-R):** Enjoying games at Kapan assembly; James and CJ had opportunities to share messages and testimonies at Machchhegaun and Lalitpur assemblies.

2 weeks, 23 missionaries

MSC's South American Visit

BY PHIL BARNES

How's your Spanish? Ours is pretty meager, which is unfortunate since nine of South America's 12 countries are Spanish-speaking. There are about 125 workers currently serving the Lord through CMML and MSC Canada in 10 of those countries, and my wife Marilyn and I had the great opportunity to visit several of these workers in April 2015. We invite you to join us today as we recap our whirlwind tour, which included visits to seven locations and involved 13 flights in 15 days.

Argentina

We traveled to Argentina for a conference for South American mission service agencies and made use of that trip to visit workers around that continent. There was an excellent article in the August issue of *Missions* by Joel Hernandez that reported on this conference. For those who missed it, or would appreciate a recap, this conference was planned so that some of the more established mission service agencies could share with brothers from countries that have agencies in early stages of development or are attempting to begin a service group where none exists. It was an extremely profitable and encouraging exercise, and we pray that lasting benefit will come out of it in many countries.

Uruguay

After the conference near Buenos Aires, Argentina, we took a high-speed catamaran across to Colonia, Uruguay, where we were met by **Ken and Eunice Russell**. The Brethren work began here in 1882 and there are approximately 32 assemblies. Ken's parents, Lionel and Irene, were workers in Uruguay for many years. When Ken and Eunice



Ken and Eunice Russell at Camp Peniel.

were married in Canada, the Lord also called them to serve in Uruguay. The approach they took was to go into a region that didn't have an evangelical witness and arrange to broadcast Christian radio programs, complete with contact information, on local stations. They asked the Lord to provide them with six solid contacts in the first six months, which came about almost to the day. This formed the basis of their first church plant. They have now seen four local churches and a Christian camp grow up in this region. **Rob and Cecilia Russell** also serve in Uruguay at another camp near Mercedes, and Ken and Eunice's son Andrew and his wife Leticia serve in the Lord's work full-time as Uruguayan national workers in Montevideo.

Chile

The next day, we were off to Chile where we were met by **David and Ruth Ann Rogers** and **Margaret Jones**. Chile is a long narrow country stretching more than 2,670 miles (4,300 km) north to south, but only 217 miles (350 km) at its widest point east to west. The Rogers serve in Rancagua, about an hour south of Santiago, and have seen four assemblies started in the region. It was a joy to share the Word at a mid-week meeting in Rosario and to enjoy fellowship with the believers there.



David and Ruth Ann Rogers with Margaret Jones.



Peru

Our next stop was Chiclayo, Peru, and the work at Strong Tower Christian School. This facility includes a Christian school and a children's home which seeks to introduce the children to the Lord and to find suitable adoptive parents for them. We enjoyed the hospitality of **Tom and Carol Clark** and had a good visit with **Crystal Rudy**, who was commended to the work there last year from Heidelberg Bible Fellowship in Ontario. Crystal teaches the younger classes English in this Christian context, and it was great to spend time with her in her home.

Then followed a bus ride to Trujillo, Peru, and a visit with **Rich and Pam Harknett** who serve the Lord at the Trujillo Bible Centre. This center houses a Christian school, a local church and a Bible college and is a hive of activity.



Clockwise from top left: Strong Tower; Crystal Rudy at Strong Tower; Trujillo Bible school facilities; Harknett family.

Ecuador

Onward to Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Hope of Bastion School. This project was begun about 20 years ago by MSC workers Tim and Lil Horne, who had a vision to provide basic education in a Christian context to children in a squatter's slum called Bastion Popular. This work has been close to our hearts for many years as our daughter, Christy, served the Lord there from 1998 to 2003. We visited the school in those days, and it was great to see the tremendous progress that has been made

over the years, not only in the school but in the neighborhood, which now has paved streets and proper infrastructure. We enjoyed visiting there for a couple days and spending time with the team, which included MSC workers **Becky Martin** and **Jessenia Bauman** and CMML worker **Erin Hayes**. The building has grown as the grades being offered now extend through high school, and there was a push to get the new areas of the building completed for the start of the next term.



From left: (L-R) Becky Martin, Erin Hayes and Jessenia Bauman with their coworker Carlos Viera; Hope of Bastion School.

Colombia

It was hot enough in Guayaquil, but we were now on our way to Barranquilla, Colombia, where the temperatures were 100 degrees (38 C) with very high humidity. Here we were able to spend time with **Ruby Campbell** who has served the Lord faithfully for 43 years. We visited the Emmaus office and saw the many courses which go out around the country, many to people in prisons.

As we began our journey toward Canada, we had a day lay-over in Bogota and enjoyed a meal with CMML workers **Brian and Sheran Killins**, **Mike and Elaine Dubberly** and family, **Paul and Joanne Rogers** and **Mark Rogers**, who are all based in Bogota. It was a wonderful time of fellowship.



CMML workers in Bogota.

Ruby Campbell and Ewduar Parra.

New focus on field visits

Those of you who have read *Missions* for many years, and follow the activities of CMML and MSC, will have noticed that both organizations are engaging in more field visits than in past times. We are convinced that these visits give us a very different perspective on what is happening on the field than we could get through reports, emails and even phone calls, and are an encouragement to the workers who feel a deeper connection with MSC or CMML. Our role is to serve, support and inform the sending local church and the worker on the field. Firsthand experience provides the information and personal impression that are key to filling that role. We thank the Lord for those who faithfully support the work of CMML and MSC and enable us to do this important work. ■

Learn More!



For more information about CMML and MSC Canada missionaries in South America, refer to the 2015 *Missionary Prayer Handbook*, Day 22-27 (page 98-123).

Phil Barnes is MSC Canada's executive director.

May We Introduce

Heidi Koppen
Missionary to Ireland

The Lord got hold of my heart at a young age with the words "It is finished!" I realized that when Jesus said this on the cross, He paid for all my sins and finished everything that needed to be done. There's nothing more that I need to pay for or do. His amazing forgiveness and love made me realize that following Christ is far better than anything the world has to offer. I knew that I wanted to live the rest of my life serving my incredible Lord.

As I grew, walking with Christ, He laid youth ministry on my heart. I love serving and teaching those who are just a couple of steps behind me, investing in them so they are empowered to serve Christ. I also discovered how exciting it is to encourage those a few steps ahead of me. These are some of the blessings I've learned about serving through being part of a local church.

All along, I never considered going into missions work. But, during my four years of training for youth ministry at Emmaus Bible College, I had the opportunity to go on Ron Hampton's TnT Team (now eTeams) short-term trips to Ireland. These trips are centered on evangelism and encouragement of local churches. Each summer, God provided for me to keep going back and serving the Irish people. This opened my eyes to the

needs there for youth ministry and encouragement.

God has guided my heart to long-term work there, and my assembly, Great Adventure Church, is very supportive, believing that God wants me to go. I'll work with a local church (Shankill Bible Church) in Dublin, running a youth center and helping with an evangelistically centered youth club. In the future I would like to serve at summer camps as well as network throughout southern Ireland to start up women's conferences and retreats. I may also help Kathy Moriarty with the Travellers ministry (similar to Gypsies). My heart in going to Ireland is to bring the Gospel to a spiritually dark place and stir up Christians to the joy of serving Christ. God has given me so much through the investment of so many incredible people. I can't wait to pass on His truth and His blessings.

Please pray for God's provision and direction as I prepare to go. Pray for God's hand on the ministry that I will be able to be part of. And please pray for the salvation of the youth I will work with and that they will boldly stand for Christ. ■



Namibia

A Country Thirsty for the Word

BY JULIE FRANK

For a couple of years, several missionaries recommended that I visit the country of Namibia. However, I must admit that I thought, why would I want to go to a desert? In March 2014 I traveled to Cape Town for a short holiday with Rebekah Flynn (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 5) and decided we should go through Namibia to see the land.

We found Namibia to be very different from Zambia, where we serve. In the past, it was part of South Africa, so there is a strong Afrikaans influence. Its capital city, Windhoek, is quite westernized and not like Zambian cities. It is a very clean tourist-friendly city, with English as its official language. I was amused that the African-Namibia people would speak to each other in English and then switch to Afrikaans or German to speak to us. People were open to receive Gospel tracts, and I was surprised to learn that there isn't an assembly in the whole country. It was during this time that the Lord laid on my heart to have a gospel outreach in Windhoek.

Preparation

When we returned to Zambia, I got in touch with Dan Nguluka, a Zambian missionary, who had gospel outreaches in Namibia. He didn't know of any text or literature in the vernacular languages and suggested which languages I should use to translate texts. Dan helped me get in contact with believers in Windhoek. One of these young men, Justine Samalesu, translated the texts into two of the vernacular languages, Ovambo and Herero. A friend in Cape Town translated the text into Afrikaans, and a friend of Rebekah's in Canada translated the text into German. It took nearly six months to get the texts printed, which was done at the press in Lusaka.

The team

Dan Nguluka gave me advice on where to go in Windhoek, and he obtained permission from government officials for the gospel outreach to be held in the city, March 9–18, 2015. Our



Top: Baobab tree near the Zambezi River.

Middle: The Namibia Gospel Outreach team: (L-R, back row) Mark Wilson, Rodney Brown, Julie Frank, Susan Frank, Miles Frank, Bethany Bergen, Scott Hayes, Freda Hancock, Hannah Hendrickson, Rebekah Flynn, (front row) David Poidevin, Kapi Kamwande, and Mbuyi Kamwande.

Bottom: The Scripture texts we distributed.



Top (L-R): Driving through the forest; Crossing the Zambezi River on a large pontoon. **Middle:** A plain we crossed in Zambia's Western province. **Bottom (L-R):** The team went for a camel ride in the desert; A lion we saw during an afternoon safari near Windhoek; A giraffe with Windhoek in the background.

team of 13 consisted of Rebekah Flynn and myself; my parents, Miles and Susan Frank, and my uncle Mark Wilson; David Poidevin (MPH Day 6); Kapi and Mbuyi Kamwande (twin Zambian brothers who are teachers and active in their assemblies); Scott Hayes (an American brother with Seed Sowers); Bethany Bergen and Hannah Hendrickson (young Canadian and American nurses who afterward came to Loloma); Freda Hancock (a believer from Labrador); and Rodney Brown (an Irish commended worker serving in Cape Town, South Africa).

Travel

Eight of us traveled from Zambia by road; Tim and Joy Beer generously let us use their two vehicles for the outreach. We traveled from Loloma to Windhoek, through the Western province and crossed the Zambezi in a pontoon. We reached Katima Mulilo late the first night and stayed in a

lodge. The next day, we crossed the border into Namibia. It took three hours to get through immigration. There was a very long line, but since we had seniors with us we were told to go to the front of the line! Otherwise, I think we would have been there all day. That day we traveled to Rundu and stayed at a very nice lodge near the river. As we drove, we saw elephants and giraffes and counted 68 warthogs! The third evening, we reached Windhoek. We stayed at Puccini House which is very central. The owner was very good to us, allowing us to use their kitchen and food. The next day, we took a city tour to get a lay of the land. This useful overview of the city helped us identify various "hot spots" and also informed us about safety issues. For example, it is a great offence to take a picture of people without first asking. You could even be arrested!

Outreach strategies

Bethany Bergen, Freda Hancock, Scott Hayes, Hannah Hendrickson, and Rodney Brown joined us over the weekend, and we began the distribution Monday morning. Since most of the neighborhoods are gated, we were not able to go door-to-door. We wanted to have gospel meetings, but it was rather difficult to rent a building. The rent was based on the number of people who would enter the room and that was difficult to predict. So instead, we set up teams at various places with a lot of foot traffic, such as outside of grocery stores, various malls, and by the bus station. Every day we had teams on Independence Avenue near the bus station and in between two malls. In these areas, each person gave 300 texts in an hour. It was busy! A team also went to a mall in Khomsdal, another part of the city.

We sent two teams to Katutura, an area of Windhoek where people do not want to live but were forced to move there during apartheid. The teams had to go to Katutura by taxi due to the high crime rate in this area. It was good having Zambian brethren on these teams.

We also had teams go to shantytown. Here, the teams were able to go door-to-door and visit with people. The school there agreed that the senior

children could receive a Scripture text during their school assembly.

Thirsty for the Word

The texts were generally well received. People are thirsty for the Word of God. The churches, which are often scams, have disillusioned them. I had a couple of people plead with me to stay in Namibia. They stated that it was unfair that Zambia had so many missionaries and they had no one to teach them. That was hard for me to hear.

I should mention that it seemed to make a difference for people to know that we were from Zambia. They were reserved when they thought we were from America and questioned why we thought we needed to go to Namibia. But when they heard we were from Zambia, their countenance changed and we were welcomed.

A seeking heart

One of the cleaning ladies at Puccini House asked us to go to her home to speak with her. She lived in a house made of iron sheets, only big enough for the bed. After we greeted her family she took us down the road to a community center where we sat on the steps and spoke to her about salvation. She said that to her husband, a witch doctor, "the Bible is like a snake." But she is searching for the truth. Every day she keeps track of all the sins she commits and then at the end of the day she never feels clean and knows that she needs a change in her life. We opened the Scriptures with her and explained that Christ died for her sins. During the time we spoke with her, it became dark and windy but the Lord held off the rain. It wasn't until we were in the car that the rain started to pour down. It was quite amazing.

A good response

We went with 15,000 Scripture texts, 1,000 children's papers, and also 1,000 Gospels of John. We ran out of texts halfway through the outreach and printed 10,000 more there in Windhoek. And these too were finished! People's responses were overwhelming.

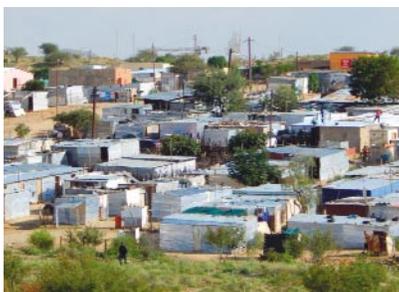
The country has elected a new president. We

pray that the new government will allow the Gospel to be preached in the country.

I have received a dozen emails from people who received the Scripture text. Lord willing, we plan to go later this year to visit some of these people, and I'm also planning another gospel outreach in April 2016. ■



Julie Frank was commended in 2000 by Thunder Bay Gospel Hall, Ontario.



Top (L-R): Windhoek; Distributing texts in front of the mall in Khomsdal. **Middle:** School girls in shantytown. **Bottom (L-R):** Shantytown; Morning devotions.

ITALY REPORT

An International Brethren Conference and a Visit with Missionaries



BY PHILIP PARSONS

This summer, CMMI and MSC representatives attended the sixth International Brethren Conference on Mission, held in Rome. While there, we also took the opportunity to visit several missionaries serving in Italy.

VISITING OUR WORKERS

Prior to the conference in Rome, Joe and Sara Raju and my wife Mary and I, with the help of veteran missionaries **Daniel and Paola Pasquale**, visited some of our workers in Italy (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 15). Daniel first visited Italy with Operation Mobilization in the early 1970s. There he met Paola Grosso and they married in 1974. The following year they were commended to the work in Italy by the assembly in Littleton, Colorado, and by the assembly in Rome. Recently, the Lord has located them in Monte Porzio to plant a church. Daniel teaches and preaches and Paola has a ministry among women and helps with children in Sunday school.

Their son **Daniele** lives nearby with his wife **Marti**. Much of Daniele's ministry involves a teaching and administrative post at the Istituto Biblico Evangelico Italiano. A few years ago, the leadership of the school was passed to Daniele, and now efforts are being made to reorganize the college by offering Bible training at strategic locations in Italy and begin a distance learning component. **Elijah Rust**, who just recently returned to the U.S. after a two-year commitment in Italy, was a great help to the institute by upgrading and improving the technology.

We spent a delightful afternoon and evening with **Christopher and Virginie Zito** and their children Nathaniel and Melissa. Chris and Virginie met in Bible school in Italy and were commended in 2007 by the assembly in Rutherford, New Jersey. They serve in Nettuno, a distant suburb of Rome, primarily in a church planting ministry. I was invited to give a Wednesday evening Bible study in a small but growing

Top left: Monte Porzio. **Right column (from top):** IBEL building; (L-R) Mary Parsons with Dan Pasquale, Daniele Pasquale, and Sara and Joe Raju; Zito family. **Bottom row (L-R):** Elijah Rust; Christopher Zito and Phil Parsons leading a Bible study in Nettuno; Franko and Charlotte Liotti.

assembly church-plant nearby. Chris served as translator and Daniel Pasquale gave a word of testimony. The evening concluded with a pizza feast. One of the church members owns a restaurant and graciously provided a variety of authentic and tasty pizza!

We were greatly privileged to meet up with **Charlotte and Franco Liotti** at a Bible camp near Florence. Charlotte, commended in 1972 by the assembly in Detroit, met Franco, an Italian evangelist, while serving in Italy. They married in 1975 and are currently engaged in evangelism, home Bible studies and helping support the assembly work by itinerant preaching. Franco is a well-liked speaker and often is invited to speak at camp sessions throughout the summer.

Daniel Pasquale was most helpful in driving us from place to place and made a special accommodation so that we could visit a missionary family serving with Echoes of Service, the UK equivalent of CMML. The drive included a stop in Campobasso, a place where the Pasquales planted an assembly. What made this trip special for us was an opportunity to visit a former student who attended Faith Academy in the Philippines where Mary and I served. Heidi and her husband Regin serve the Lord in a church planting ministry in San Elia a Pianisi. Both were commended in 2003 by the assembly in the Faroe Islands.

PRAY FOR ITALY

Pray for the Bible institute under the administration of Daniele Pasquale. Their building is in need of some repairs.

Pray that more young people will take up the challenge and become more fully grounded in the truth of Scripture. The institute is an important assembly ministry.

Pray for a godly and effective response to the growing illegal immigration concerns. Italy is a gateway country to the European Union. There is great opportunity for evangelism among the immigrants who risk their lives for a better life. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in Italy that the Lord would enable them to help lead those seeking relief to the Lord Jesus Christ.

IBCM 6

The sixth International Brethren Conference on Mission convened in Pomezia, very near to Rome, the capital of Italy. The conference, June 22-26, 2015, brought together more than 700 assembly brethren from 105 countries. Those attending the conference from CMML were President Bob Dadd and his wife Helen, Director Joseph Raju and his wife Sara, Volunteer Short-term Service Coordinator Brian Kramer, and Phil and Mary Parsons, Assembly Relations and Missionary Care. MSC was represented by Executive Director Phil Barnes and his wife Marilyn and Vice President William Yuille. Additionally, some of our missionaries served by CMML and MSC attended the conference: **Jesse Johnson** and **Jeremy Bassett** from Burundi, **Peter Clift** from Japan, **David and Ruth Harvey** from the Philippines, **Brad Dickson** from France, **Jim Gillett** from Ireland, **Mirek Marczak** from Poland, **Andres Segovia** from



Left (from top): Ancient ruins in Rome; The Colosseum. Right: St. Peter's Basilica.



Bolivia, **Hank and Beryl Gelling** from Belgium, **Mark Rogers** from Colombia, **Pablo and Sarah Cenepo-Torres** from Peru, **Oystein Magory** from Norway and **Jim and Sharon Fleming** from Other Overseas Service. CMML Director Joel Hernandez led a team of students and recent graduates from Emmaus Bible College. These young ladies worked tirelessly throughout the conference to help ensure things ran smoothly. Joel also served as an interpreter. CMML missionaries serving in Italy, Daniele and Marti Pasquale, Elijah Rust, Chris and Virginie Zito and Daniel Pasquale worked behind the scenes in support of the conference organizers.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a time for leaders of Brethren assemblies worldwide to meet. Times of encouragement, networking and fellowship take precedence and often results in participants leaving with fresh ideas and new strategies to help deal with trends and spiritual challenges in their home countries. The first IBCM was held in Singapore (1993) with subsequent conferences held in Rome (1996), Romania (2003), Wiedenest, Germany (2007) and Strasbourg, France (2011).

This year's theme, "That the World Might Know," formed the foundation for the daily Bible studies taken from the Lord's Upper Room ministry found in John's Gospel chapters 13-17. The teaching by national leaders from Germany, Peru, India and Jamaica was stimulating and challenging. Strategic ses-

sions followed where presenters integrated biblical teaching with practical application in such topics as "The Inner Life of the Christian Leader," "Servant Leadership in Practice," "The Church under Pressure," and "The Holy Spirit and the Growth of the Church." Workshops were available each afternoon under broad topics including "Strengthening the Local Church," "Missions Today," and "Doing Good to All." Bob Dadd convened a workshop "Responsibilities of Sending Churches," Phil Barnes led a workshop on "The Role of Mission Service Agencies Today," and Joe Raju led a session titled "Growth through Immigrant and Ethnic Churches."

Some of the most informative features of the conference occurred in the evening. Reports about assembly growth, persecution, increasing refugee populations worldwide and immigration concerns confirm that not only is the Brethren assembly movement thriving, but validates the need that assembly congregations be vigilant and reach out to the multitudes of unevangelized peoples. For example, Italy is a gateway country for refugees coming primarily from Eritrea and Syria. Suddenly, an emerging mission field develops where Italian believers can share the love of the Lord, helping to meet the needs of those seeking asylum. ■

Philip Parsons, CMML Assembly Relations and Missionary Care.

Top row (L-R): Conference gathering; Jesse Johnson with Burundian leaders; Peter Clift and Daniel Pasquale. **Middle Row (L-R):** Pablo and Sarah Cenepo-Torres; Bob Dadd with Sergio Sanchez (Mexico) and Andres Segovia. **Bottom row (L-R):** David and Ruth Harvey and Jeremy Bassett; Hank and Beryl Gelling; Phil Barnes, Phil Boom (Emmaus) and Phil Parsons.