

# Missions



CMML Visits  
**INDIA**

Medical Missions  
in **KENYA**

## Our First Year

A Missionary Family's  
Journey on the Field



# Thinking It Through

THOMAS SCHELICH

## Now

**E**aster Sunday annually focuses our attention on Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. Often, we consider and remember the resurrection as an event in the past—those days in Jerusalem when Jesus of Nazareth was crucified, buried and rose again on the third day.

Likewise, on Easter Sunday, we think about the future. In the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the beginning of God's promise that He will come again to receive us to Himself, when the dead in Christ will be raised and we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air.

But we should also remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ as something for the present—something immediate—something *now*. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Now is Christ risen from the dead." (1 Corinthians 15:20) Just as the dead will be raised, we in Christ are there already: passed from death unto life, now to walk in newness of life.

There are few words that grab our attention like the word "now." People who study such things say that it is one of the most powerful words in the English language. You start a fairy tale with the words "Once upon a time" or maybe "A long time

**"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."**

ago in a galaxy far, far away." The further away we put the story, the less real, the less relevant, it becomes. But when we talk about now, it is something real and alive—something urgent, important and vibrant, and it grabs our attention. The writer to the Hebrews said, "Now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." (Hebrews 9:26) The verse is indeed about a unique time—this happened once. However, it also has a sense of immediacy and urgency—it says now.

This one Man, on one mission (to put away sin), and this one

event (the sacrifice of Himself) was the end of the ages. It separated everything that had ever gone before from everything since. It ended "then," and it started "now." Then was the age of the Law of Moses, an age of fear, and an age of death. But when Jesus died and rose again, then became now, and now is an age of grace, an age of boldness, and an age of life.

In John 5:25, 28–29, Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.... Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." These verses break into two sections, and they parallel one another. In verses 28 and 29 Jesus said "the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth." This is a resurrection that the prophets had foretold. This resurrection is universal (Jesus says "all"). This resurrection is physical (Jesus said "all who are in the graves" and what is in the graves is the body). This resurrection is at the sovereign divine command of Jesus Christ (all in the graves "will hear His voice and come forth"). But this resurrection is not now. Jesus says that the hour "is coming." It happens somewhere off in the future, the last trumpet, the final judgment.

In John 5:25, Jesus told of something new: a resurrection not in the prophetic future, but which "Now is." This "now" resurrection is not universal. Jesus does not say all, He says but only "those who hear will live." This resurrection is not physical, at least not yet. He speaks of the dead but not those in the graves. The Bible declares that death is the natural "walking around" condition of all who are in Adam: dead in our trespasses, dead in our sins and dead in our understanding of our God.

Just as Christ "now is risen from the dead," so His resurrection "is coming and now is." So, today, we say with Paul "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2) ■

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COVER PHOTO: Melinda Dilione—Asher and Annabelle dressed for Heritage Day, Jamaica.

# Our First Year

## NEW MISSIONARIES SHARE A MONTH-BY-MONTH VIEW

BY MELINDA DILIONE

**Editor's note:** The first year on the mission field is exciting. It can also be overwhelming. We often hear first-year reports but they are written in hindsight, softening the trials and possibly forgetting the daily joys. So, when former *Missions* editor (2008 to 2012), Melinda Dilione, and her husband, Mike, left for the mission field in January 2016, we took this as an opportunity to create an article that viewed the first year as it happened. We asked the Diliones to write monthly reports recording their accomplishments and trials, joys and fears. We hope this unique article gives you a greater appreciation of what it's like to leave home to serve God on the mission field.

istry that prepares and delivers meals to locals who are poor, sick and elderly. This has been a rewarding experience so far. We also help with youth fellowship Friday nights.

Melinda is 16 weeks pregnant. We found a doctor and her January visit went well and the baby looks healthy. We're adjusting to the culture, climate, food, and so on but are eager to see what February holds.

### February

We feel more settled into life and ministry here. Melinda finds it challenging to get to know the women in the assemblies, but as the month progressed she felt slightly more acquainted with some. Melinda attended a women's missionary conference for the Western Jamaican assemblies, which was a great experience. The kids continue to adjust well. Annabelle loves attending school and has already picked up a strong Jamaican accent! We're facing some challenges getting a work permit exemption, which is required for our visas. We trust this will work out, but we admit it is difficult not to be anxious. We miss home but that is to be expected early on. Much prayer and time spent in the Word gets us through.

We found out this month that the baby is a boy! Melinda is approaching 20 weeks. We pray she will be protected from the Zika virus, which is present in Jamaica.

### March

March gave us our first major trial since arriving. One day, Mike felt constant chest pain. We visited a local hospital where Mike was admitted for what the doctor said was a



### January



After years of praying, we began our journey to Jamaica January 7, 2016. This first month was spent settling into life here and accomplishing all the necessary tasks

that entails: settling into our apartment, attending to vehicle necessities, navigating through local markets and working through the process of obtaining a two-year visa.

We quickly jumped into ministry needs. Mike preaches every Sunday morning and night and leads a men's discipleship group Monday nights. Wednesdays we attend a local assembly's prayer and Bible study. We're involved with a min-



heart attack. The cardiologist suggested Mike have a heart catheterization conducted in the States. We spent two weeks back home and Mike was examined thoroughly. We're thankful the doctors ruled out a heart attack. Instead, we were told Mike had inflammation and fluid around his heart from a viral infection—nothing too serious and treatable with medicine. Praise the Lord! We renewed Melinda's passport and obtained our visas, allowing us to stay in Jamaica for two years. A huge burden was lifted when this was finally accomplished! We had a quick time to visit with family and friends and returned to Jamaica at the end of March.



## April

We're adjusting to the Jamaican culture. We sense a connection to the people now and don't simply feel like tourists.

God has answered our prayers as we develop stronger relationships with people, but there is still a long way to go. In the first weeks on the mission field you can feel so lonely, scared and hopeless about what lies ahead. These feelings eventually start to fade as deep connections are made. We find ourselves identifying with Jamaicans and have a sense of pride for the country. We can only imagine how veteran missionaries feel.

Mike continues in his ministry schedule, preaching several times a week. We were greatly encouraged after a believer said to Mike, "God sent you to Jamaica; I want to learn from you. Be encouraged." We pray that the "cultural Christianity" that plagues the island will diminish and that disciples will be made.

We were shocked to hear that two U.S. missionaries were murdered this month in another parish of Jamaica. We constantly try to remain wise in where we travel, and we stay with those we trust when we have to go to more rural areas. We pray for the families of these men and also for continued protection upon us.

## May

We've found that although Jamaica is a very Christianized country, there is a great deal of false teaching and superstition. We see corruption in financial matters in some assemblies. This is disheartening and we pray earnestly for these matters and trust the Lord will use us in these situations.

At 32-weeks pregnant, Melinda is missing home more than

ever. We're learning the mission field can be lonely and that we need to draw our comfort in the Lord and not our situations. We're the only assembly-based missionaries in Jamaica, and we haven't met other missionaries serving here through other organizations. This leaves no one to connect to who can identify with us and understand our struggles.

June in Jamaica proved to be hot and humid, especially for Melinda in her eighth month of pregnancy. Mike began sharing a morning devotion at another primary school this month. As the school year winds down, we're thankful for the opportunities we've had to share the Gospel in local schools.

We're praying about the need for formal Bible training on the north coast of Jamaica. We're praying about introducing Emmaus Correspondence School courses to local men and creating unique Bible certificate programs.

Melinda had some great ministry opportunities. She shares a devotional thought to the ladies at an assembly once a month and has opportunities to teach Sunday school. She is feeling more comfortable in these roles and will continue in them a few months after the baby arrives.

We're gearing up for a very busy July, with two VBS weeks that Mike will teach at as well as an island-wide youth convention. Then, of course, we have another baby arriving, Lord willing!

## June



## July



July was an exciting month as we welcomed the birth of our third child, Aiden Paul, born July 26 here in Jamaica. There were many challenges this month as Melinda was diagnosed with preeclampsia and induced to have the baby on July 3. After

two days in the hospital, the induction failed but Melinda continued to improve, so she was sent home on bed rest. Melinda was able to carry the baby to term. However, it was found at this point that the umbilical cord was wrapped around the baby's neck and an emergency C-section was ordered. It turns out Melinda suffered from a placental abruption, and Aiden wasn't breathing upon delivery. We're so thankful he quickly improved and both Aiden and Melinda are recovering well.

Even with Melinda's health concerns related to pregnancy, ministry continued. Two young men who were saved during VBS just finished Bible camp and seem to have a great foundation in their faith. Praise God! Mike spoke at a youth convention this month with nearly 100 in attendance. The topic was "Unveiling the Masks." He was encouraged by the discussion and interest among the youth.

We're adjusting to life as a family of five. It has been a lot of change for Annabelle and Asher. Days can feel crazy with our three little ones, but we're thankful for God's grace and help! Mike's mom is here for several weeks, which is a blessing.

## August

As schools resumed this month, we had the privilege of supplying 38 backpacks filled with school supplies to various children from two churches. Mike encouraged the kids to be submissive to those in authority over them. We then prayed for them as they began the new school year.

Four new believers were baptized. We're thankful they took this step of obedience, and we pray they will continue to grow in the Lord.

We're working through our first (hot) summer as missionaries. The humidity is above 80 percent every day, we have two active toddlers who want to keep busy all day and a newborn, Melinda is recovering from a C-section, and we're sleep deprived—you get the idea. We didn't feel as much like "missionaries" this month but more like children of God in need of *daily* strength, mercy



and patience. This is really how we should feel every day: "for when I am weak, He is strong." A task such as bringing the baby to see a pediatrician is an all-day event in Jamaica. As new missionaries still adjusting to living overseas, we admit this month felt downright hard at times.

## September

School is back in session! Annabelle started kindergarten and Asher began pre-K. They love making friends and are learning so fast. Being in school has allowed them to learn the culture quickly and has opened more doors for ministry opportunities.



September brought many visitors from home, which we loved. Melinda's mom visited for four weeks and each of her sisters paid a quick visit as well. It was valuable for them to see the ministry here firsthand.

Jamaica was just spared a direct hit from Hurricane Matthew. We prepared for the worst. While we rejoice that the storm redirected away from us, we were devastated for the surrounding countries such as Haiti and Cuba. But, it was through this impending storm that Melinda's sister got saved while visiting us! We prayed for her salvation for so many years. Leaving for the mission field was difficult, knowing we both have unsaved family members back home. God is so faithful!

We're still learning cultural differences both in the home and in the church. Our hearts break at many of the doctrinal errors so prevalent in Jamaica. Our burden is to teach and train the believers here, so they have a solid foundation.

## October

Our ministry is constantly evolving. Some things we did when we first arrived we no longer do, such as the food distribution ministry. God allowed the opportunity to start a small Bible class, which Mike is passionately pursuing. Emmaus courses are being used with classroom-style teaching once a week.

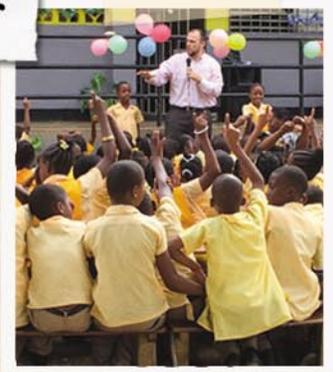
We celebrated Asher's third birthday with a small party with church friends. We love opportunities to fellowship and build relationships with the believers here. Our kids loved attending

## December

We just concluded our first holiday season on the mission field. It was definitely difficult to be away from family for the holidays. We were forced to cling to God as we once again wrestled with feeling a bit homesick. We kept busy in ministry, which helped of course. Mike spoke at a few Christmas carol services at local schools.

We're thankful for these opportunities outside of the assembly. Christmas Sunday was long with regular meetings plus special services for the Sunday schools at two assemblies. We were blessed by the opportunity to distribute Christmas gifts to dozens of children.

We're so overjoyed that Annabelle (almost five years old) got saved this month! It happened during our nightly family devotion time: she learned that Jesus's name means "God saves," and then asked if she could be saved. She prayed and we believe she truly understands. Please pray for our family.



Heritage Day at school this month! They wore authentic bandana outfits and sang Jamaican songs at a concert for parents.

We all struggled with sickness this month—Melinda and the kids had terrible ear infections. Working through practical hardships such as sickness on the mission field can be difficult. Melinda was particularly homesick this month but God is faithful through the ups and downs and has drawn us closer to Him.



## November



We were delighted when another missionary couple serving two-hours away in Kingston reached out to us via Facebook. We met for a Thanksgiving meal with some other missionaries and expats. It was an encouraging time and a great way to celebrate. We split the cost of a turkey (\$80 USD) and all contributed with the traditional sides, which made for a delicious all-American meal, which we've missed greatly!

Each November, schools host "Parents Appreciation Week." We enjoyed a special time visiting the kids' school. This year it happened to fall on Thanksgiving week, so Melinda taught the children a lesson on why Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. Mike had a few opportunities to visit local schools and churches to share a devotional challenge to parents.

We're finally feeling a stronger connection with local believers and are seeing some fruit from our labor. As our first year begins to wind down, we're eager for what's ahead.



As we complete our first year in Jamaica, we can't help but reflect on the incredible goodness of our mighty God. We're thankful for the Lord's provision and we see how much He has worked in our lives, conforming us to the image of Christ. It has taken this entire first year of being on the mission field to really feel settled in ministry. It takes time to become fully submerged in the culture, in relationships, in ways of doing day-to-day life. We're eager for our second year of ministry where we believe God will reveal to us whether or not He is calling us to Jamaica long-term. ■

*Melinda and Mike Dilione were commended in 2015 by Fifth Avenue Chapel, Belmar, New Jersey.*



# Home with the Lord

## Gordon Wakefield

March 23, 1934 – November 22, 2016 • Missionary to Peru



**G**ordon Lee Wakefield, age 85, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, November 22, 2016, several months after being diagnosed with cancer. He was at home in Hutchinson, Kansas, being cared for by in-home hospice and his loving family.

Gordon was born on March 23, 1934, in Marysville, Kansas, the only child to William E. Wakefield and Zella Savago Wakefield. Gordon's mother died when he was eight months old, but four years later his father married Gladys Pine. From this union were born four children. Gordon received the Lord as his Savior on October 5, 1950, after being convinced of his need of salvation through the sharing of the Gospel by a graduate student, Bert Peterson, at Kansas University. While attending the university Gordon earned a master's degree in English. He also met Florence Thomas and they were married December 20, 1953, being drawn together as brother and sister in the Lord and their mutual interest in serving the Lord in foreign missions.

Gordon served two and a half years in the U.S. Army, then taught in public schools in Basehor and Hutchinson. Gordon always considered his first mission field to be his family, and the Lord provided them with three children—William Thomas (Tom), Paul, and Elizabeth (Lizzie)—all of whom came to know the Lord as Savior early in life. Following the Lord's call, Gordon and his wife were commended by Hutchinson Gospel Chapel and later by Lawrence Bible Chapel to the work in Peru. The Wakefields arrived in Lima November 10, 1964, where they served the Lord faithfully for 51 years before returning to Kansas in December 2015 due to Gordon's health.

Opportunities for service abounded throughout those 51 years, both in expected and in unusual ways. Gordon worked with eight local assemblies and was with the assembly in San Martin for the last 38 years. He served as one of the three elders for 34 years. He was the regional director for the Emmaus Bible Correspondence School for 23 years. He taught in the assemblies but also taught English for a number of years at Penzotti School and Roosevelt High School to help put his children through school. He served with summer camps and retreats as well as being director of an evening Bible institute

over 27 years. This institute still continues. He disciplined young men, gave marriage counseling and was instrumental in the printing and distribution of *Himnos Y Canticos*, a Spanish hymnbook. He made available good Christian books, literature and tracts, sometimes translating materials not available in Spanish. Desiring to broaden the range of hymns sung in the meetings, with his wife's help and musical ability, he was able to teach the San Martin assembly approximately 200 new hymns. The continuing effects were seen in Gordon's final days when three visiting Peruvians, all from the San Martin assembly, sang some of these hymns at his bedside.

In 1964 the Lord had blessed by allowing the Wakefields to rent a newly built house, where they lived for 51 years. They extended hospitality to innumerable families, travelers and guests, to the extent that many referred to it as "The Wakefield Hotel." This was also accompanied by many airport runs, through increasingly chaotic traffic, at all hours. All this and more to do God's bidding, as seen in one of Gordon's favorite hymns, "Ye Christian Heralds" by Bourne H. Draper:

*Ye Christian heralds, go proclaim Salvation through Emmanuel's name;*

*To distant climes the tidings bear, And plant the Rose of Sharon there.*

*And when our labors all are o'er, Then we shall meet to part no more;*

*Meet with the blood-bought throng to fall, And crown our Jesus Lord of all.*

Rejoicing in the hope of being with Gordon in heaven one day are his wife, Florence, his son and daughter-in-law, Paul and Rachel, his daughter, Lizzie, and his three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. His son William Thomas Wakefield preceded him to heaven in 1974.

A video of Gordon's farewell message (in Spanish) to the believers in the San Martin assembly, two days before departing Peru in 2015, can be viewed on YouTube under "Ultimo mensaje de Don Gordon."

*The Wakefield Family*



# Return to KENYA

## Short-term Medical Missions Trip

BY DR. STEVEN PRICE

It had been three years since we had been to Kagan, Kenya. Circumstances such as Ebola and the Lord's leading had disallowed a short-term medical missions journey until December 2016. The goals were twofold: we wanted to provide a conduit for the Gospel to the community, and we desired to encourage the believers in this region and thus disciple and teach. By the grace of God, it would appear both targets were achieved and, as only the Lord can do, we received the blessing.

### The team

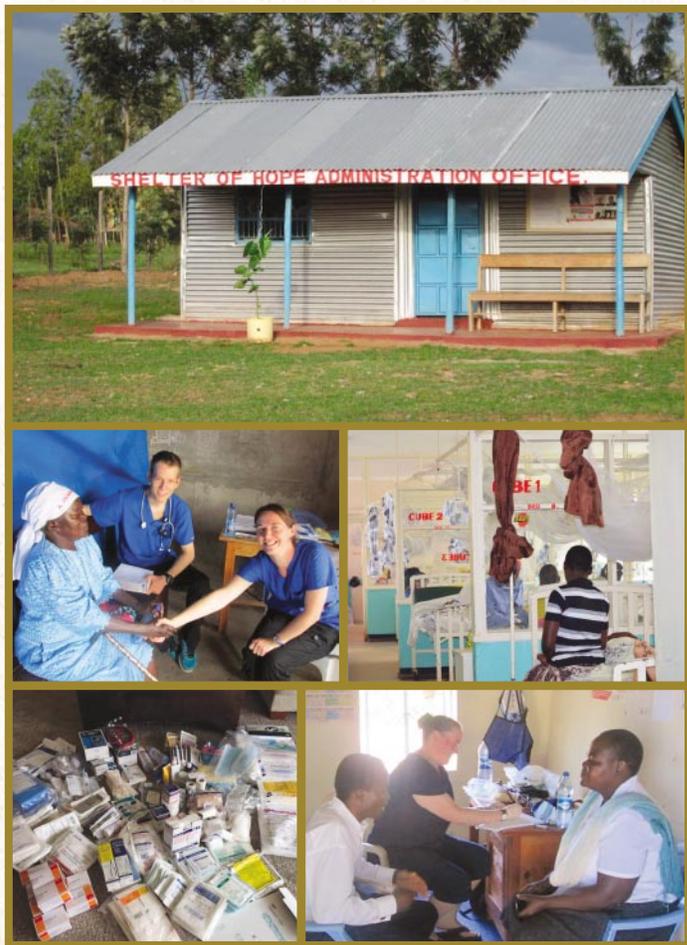
Those who participated include, Steve Allan (logistics), Amanda Brinkmann (nurse), Anne-Marie Gaynier (nurse), Sharon Robertson (nurse), Nathaniel Uhl (nurse), Travis Robertson (nurse), Jenny McKenzie (nurse), Jennifer Flokstra (intake), Micah Coolidge (intake), and myself. We worked with Ishmael Ochieng' Okuku, a Kenyan full-time worker, who coordinated the ground work in his hometown under the auspices of the organization The Shelter of Hope. His effort was invaluable as he arranged another coworker, a Kenyan physician named Dr. Ouma, to help us. Ishmael also coordinated government health services for dentistry, AIDS care, and family planning.



### Medical work

We arrived on a Wednesday afternoon, spent Thursday setting up our facilities in the school compound and arranging our pharmacy for distribution. The local Kagan assembly, Grace Bible Chapel, mobilized to assist with food, music, gospel preaching, security, countless man hours in setup and, most of all, prayer. We had a trial run of our clinic processes on

Thursday, but the majority of our 205-plus patients visited over the next three days. Three of our nurses functioned under my supervision, and Dr. Ouma saw patients on his own since there was no language barrier. Two of our staff provided "intake care" by obtaining vital signs and determining the patients' current problems. We had another pair run the pharmacy with a float-nurse aiding in procedures and patient care and a final person who simply kept the patients moving through our system. Overall, it was well-received and provided the needed platform for the Gospel.



Left: American medical team with Dr. Ouma and helper. Right: (top) Shelter of Hope school administration building; (middle L-R) Travis Robertson and Jenny McKenzie in a typical clinic day; Local hospital ward primarily for malaria; (bottom L-R) Medicines carried over from the U.S.; Jennifer Flokstra in triage.

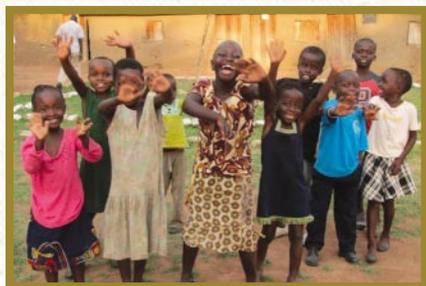
## Spiritual care

To all of us, the most rewarding time was when, on Sunday, all medical activities were suspended, and we were able to minister to the saints. Our young men had multiple one-on-one opportunities of discipleship dealing with such issues as eternal security and commitment. They also had occasion to meet with the young adult teens for testimony and Scripture discussion. Our ladies enjoyed their teaching time with the children utilizing the book *The Lamb* and introducing new songs to the youngsters. Additionally, they had extensive discussion time with the adult Kenyan sisters. A team member and I had the privilege to meet with those in church leadership. We were astounded at the cry for recurrent visits, not to practice medicine, but simply to teach their leaders who would then transmit such teaching to their youth. The Kenyan men had intense concern for the next generation but felt unequipped to prepare their young people. Quite honestly, our hearts burned with the same passion as our Kenyan brethren.



## Other ministries

During our week, we had time to visit a local hospital and witnessed conditions that would typify our medical system some 60 or 70 years ago. We were also presented with a beautiful display of Grace Bible Chapel's Sunday school who recited Scripture and sang African songs in their typical delightful style. We were overjoyed to see the progress the ladies had made in developing other marketable products that were necessary for a new livelihood rather than previous means of worldly income. Finally, we were sobered to see the vast poverty and yet privileged to visit with those special saints who made it their mission to provide schooling and medical care for predominantly orphaned children and families impacted by AIDS. We were left speechless and in some ways ashamed of our complaints in the relatively "softer" conditions of our North American Christianity.



## Use your skills

True to our Lord's care, He ministered to our hearts and instilled a freshness of passion toward the Great Commission. We all have innumerable skillsets in North American assembly life. The focus was to take what training we have been given and apply it in a place that not only needs such practical assistance but also yearns for spiritual assistance. The Spirit of God led us to both plots of dry ground. I encourage others of similar skillsets to consider comparable venues for short-term service. Perhaps, the Lord will see fit to allow an organized effort of health-care workers from our assembly circles to visit such brethren every quarter of the year in some part of the globe. I believe we should focus on what we can do rather than dismiss any service because of what we cannot do. There is much to harvest and thus much needful intercession to the Lord of the harvest. ■

*Dr. Steven Price is a CMMML adviser. He and his wife, Janet, are in fellowship at The Bible Chapel of Shawnee in Shawnee, Kansas.*

Photos by Dr. Steven Price, Sharon Robertson and Jenny McKenzie.

**Left:** Local children begging for their picture to be taken. **Right: (top L-R)** Children's meetings on Sunday; Anne-Marie Gaynier holding a little child during Sunday meeting; Jenny McKenzie teaching the children; **(middle)** Grace Chapel's ladies; **(bottom L-R)** Micah Coolidge giving his testimony; Sharon Robertson playing with children after a day's work.

# MK Corner

MISSIONS Magazine Chats With Missionary Kids

## Interview with the Tuttle kids—Day 26, Peru

BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

Ranging in age from three to 19, the six Tuttle children each have their own unique personalities and interests and are all well-spoken and vibrant. We were delighted to get to know them better as they and their parents visited CMML while on furlough. Pray for the Tuttle family as they travel throughout the United States sharing about the work in Peru and catching up with family and friends. They plan to help their oldest two sons settle in at Emmaus Bible College this fall before returning to Peru.



Javen (19), Ellia (3), Mya (9), Josiah (12), Cullen (17), Bria (14)

### Describe where you live.

**Cullen:** We live in the jungles of Peru, in the Andes Mountains. It's "jungley" but it's still the mountains, so it can be cold.

### What is your property like?

**Javen:** It's a big, brick house surrounded by a wall, across from a big field. We're basically the last house on the edge of town.

**Bria:** We have a Bible institute, so students live with us.

**Mya:** The Mattix family lives next door.

**Javen:** There is a house between us and them where a Canadian carpenter/missionary lives.

### Do you enjoy being on furlough in the U.S.?

**Josiah:** We do. It's different and it has more stuff.

### Which country do you feel most comfortable in?

**All:** Peru.

**Ellia:** Max and Duke Peru.

**Cullen:** Max and Duke are our dogs.

### Why are you more comfortable in Peru?

**Javen:** Because it's home; it's where we've grown up. It's where everything that we're comfortable with and love is.

**Josiah:** We're more used to the culture there.

### Do you find it very different here?

**Bria:** Yes!

**Javen:** People aren't as nice.

**Cullen:** Here there's all the different races. There it's just Peruvians.

### Do you all speak Spanish?

**Bria:** Yes, except for Ellia.

### Tell me about your friends in Peru?

**Javen:** They are awesome! The best!

**Cullen:** They are mostly Peruvians.

**Bria, Josiah, Mya:** The Mattix kids are our friends.

**Ellia:** Matthew! [Cacho-Hansen MPH Day 25]

### Do you feel different than other kids?

**Cullen:** Yeah. We speak English.

**Bria:** And we don't speak very good Spanish.

**Cullen:** And we're home-schooled.

**Mya:** And we're not Peruvian.

**Cullen:** I don't think we notice it all the time, but everyone else notices.

**Javen:** It's something we used to notice more. Now we're so comfortable with our friends that we feel like one of them.

### What activities or hobbies are you involved in?

**Javen:** I draw.

**Cullen:** I play guitar. I do music at church.

**Bria:** I read all the time!

**Josiah:** I like to play soccer with the church.

**Mya:** I like cooking.

**Ellia:** I like toys!

### How do you celebrate your birthdays?

**Javen:** We pick our meals and sometimes do something special like go to the theater.

**Cullen:** My last couple of birthdays we did a cool jungle hike with friends from the church.

### Do Peruvians celebrate birthdays differently?

**Cullen:** Yes! They play really loud music and dance.

**Josiah:** They have huge parties.

**Javen:** Everyone gives gifts.

### What are your favorite foods?

**Javen:** I like lomo saltado and ceviche, which is raw fish marinated in lime juice.

**Cullen:** Tacacho. It's smashed plantains with hot sauce.

**Bria:** That's my favorite, too.

**Josiah:** Mine is green spaghetti. You blend spinach with cheese and milk instead of red sauce.

**Mya:** This isn't a Peruvian plate—it's called "Mexicano."

**Javen:** We get a bunch of things like rice, meat, tomatoes and cream cheese and pile it on a plate.

**Ellia:** Pizza.



### In your own words, what is a missionary?

**Javen:** A missionary is anybody, in any place, who shares the Gospel.

**Josiah:** Anybody who wants to help people and evangelize to them.

### Do you help your parents with their ministry?

**Javen:** Cullen and I do youth group and music in our church. We preach at our youth group; all the guys rotate teaching, so we study the Bible together.

**Bria:** Sometimes I do Sunday schools.

**Josiah:** I sometimes go help evangelize with my dad in the town square.

**Javen:** We go on river trips, too. A river trip is when you get in a boat and go to villages that are harder to get to. You encourage the brothers and visit them in their homes. And afterward we have an evangelistic meeting.

**Bria:** And kids' meetings.

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

**Javen:** Being in one of the most wonderful countries in South America!

**Josiah:** All the opportunities. You get to do stuff like go around the country or other countries.

**Bria:** Knowing different people, cultures and countries.

**Cullen:** Seeing firsthand God's provision for His people and His work of salvation.

### What's the most difficult part of being an MK?

**Javen:** You're never stable. You have to leave friends behind in different cities.

### What do you say when people ask where you're from?

**Javen:** In Peru you have to say you're from the United States. In the United States, if we're in a different state, we'd say we're from Oregon. If we're in Oregon, we'd say we're from Peru!

**Bria:** I say I live in Peru, but I was born in the States.

**Mya:** Ellia and Josiah were born in Peru.

**Ellia:** I born Peru!

### When you grow up, what do you want to do and where do you want to live?

**Javen:** I want to be a psychologist and a Christian counseling person. And hopefully get a Ph.D. I don't want to live anywhere—I want to be itinerant. That's the dream!

**Cullen:** I have no idea what I want to be or where I want to live. I like to move around and see things. Wherever the Lord leads.

**Bria:** It's my dream to be a missionary in Africa.

**Josiah:** I'd love to be an architect.

**Mya:** I'd like to work as a chef. I don't know where to live.

**Ellia:** Jungle.

### Do you have any prayer requests?

**Javen:** For Cullen and me as we start a new life in the U.S.

**Cullen:** For the Lord's direction in our studying.

**Mya:** For Peru and the kids in Peru.

## Learn about Peru!

- Peru is a little smaller than Alaska.
- It is bordered by the Pacific Ocean and five countries.
- The Andes Mountains divide Peru into three sections: the coastal desert, the mountains, and the jungles.



- 93 languages are spoken in Peru; the official language is Spanish.
- There are currently 21 MKs from Peru listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*.