

Missions



Jamaica

A Family's Ministry
to Bible Students

Honduras

The Power of Hospitality

Belize

A Church's First Missions Trip

CMML

10 Years of Reaching Higher



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY KEITH R. KEYSER

Sometimes Lonely but Never Alone

Despite our interconnectivity through technology, mankind still grapples with loneliness. Christians are no exception, and oftentimes, they find themselves in the minority or even alone in the world. Some of the great men and women of the Bible endured loneliness; however, they learned that they were never actually alone during trials. Immanuel—“God with us”—promises to be with His church until “the end of the age.”¹ Believers have the assurance that nothing can “separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”²

“Thy lonely path, so holy”³

The Son of God Himself led a frequently lonely existence. He knew the pain of being outside of a settled home and community life.⁴ Throughout His ministry, He was misunderstood and falsely accused.⁵ Leading up to Calvary, all of Christ’s disciples “forsook Him and fled.”⁶ On the cross itself, He was deprived of all sense of companionship, for to offer Himself as a sacrifice for sin, He must die under God’s wrath.⁷ This caused His awful cry of abandonment: “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”⁸

Of course, in His divine foreknowledge, He purposely went to His death on the cross, telling His disciples: “Indeed, the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.”⁹ Yet, in His tribulation, the incarnate Son experienced ongoing fellowship with His Father. He daily communed with Him in prayer.¹⁰ Even on the cross, Christ addressed Him as “Father” before and after the three dark hours of bearing our sins.¹¹

It is clear that the Lord Jesus knows what loneliness is like, but He also knows the comfort of communion with God the Father. This means that saints may come to Him as their great High Priest to find solace in times of pain, persecution, and loneliness.¹²

The comfort of His presence

Through the ages, the immense comfort of the Lord’s presence has empowered believers for special service in difficult circumstances. Because of Elijah’s position before the Lord, he could march into King Ahab’s presence and deliver the message of God’s judgment.¹³ His successor, Elisha, accomplished similar feats for the same reason.¹⁴ During Paul’s daunting church-planting work in Corinth, God assured him of His unfailing presence.¹⁵ Later, he spoke of being alone at his judicial defense, but the Lord’s presence encouraged him nonetheless.¹⁶ Widows are described as alone but are also said to trust in God.¹⁷

Sustenance for the lonely

Globally, many saints are languishing in prison for their faith. Others are serving on the mission field with little or no companionship. Others toil in obscure parts of their homeland, planting churches or diligently serving. Some are shut in with infirmities, while others are without spouses or close family members.

Lonely ones who know the Lord may run to Him for strength and consolation.

Some believers live singly for God’s service, while others are circumstantially single.¹⁸

Thankfully, lonely ones who know the Lord may run to Him for strength and consolation at any place or time. He offers strengthening resources through prayer, through fellowship in the church, through the promises of His Word.¹⁹

The compassionate Lord offers unfailing support to His people in a lonely, painful world. Sometimes, one may be alone physically, but God is always near. ■

Keith Keyser is a commended worker based in Pennsylvania.

¹ Matthew 28:20. ² Romans 8:39. ³ W. Yerbury, “Thy Name We Love, Lord Jesus.” ⁴ Matthew 8:20; Mark 1:45. ⁵ John 7 is just one such passage, but it provides an accurate summary of popular opinion regarding the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Mark 14:50. The women were a notable exception, and of the 12 disciples, John eventually returned (John 19:25–27). ⁷ Hebrews 9:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21. ⁸ Matthew 27:46. ⁹ John 16:32. Compare His previous statement to His adversaries: “And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father Who sent Me.” (John 8:16) ¹⁰ E.g., Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35. ¹¹ Luke 23:34, 46. ¹² Hebrews 2:17–18; 4:14–16. ¹³ 1 Kings 17:1; 18:15. ¹⁴ 2 Kings 3:14; 5:16. ¹⁵ Acts 18:9–11. ¹⁶ 2 Timothy 4:16–18. ¹⁷ 1 Timothy 5:5. ¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 7:7, 17. ¹⁹ 1 Timothy 2:1–4; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 13:5.

Vol. 49, No. 4. Christian Missions in Many Lands (ISSN 0744-4052) is published eleven times a year by Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., Belmar, New Jersey. Periodical postage paid at Belmar, New Jersey, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send United States address changes to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Send Canadian address changes to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2. MSC Canada publication agreement Number 40026478. All correspondence, including address changes, gifts for missionary work, and for expenses should be sent by Canadian readers to MSC Canada, 101 Amber Street, Suite 16, Markham, Ontario L3R 3B2 and by United States readers to Christian Missions in Many Lands, Inc., PO Box 13, Spring Lake, NJ 07762. Copyright © CMML. All rights reserved.

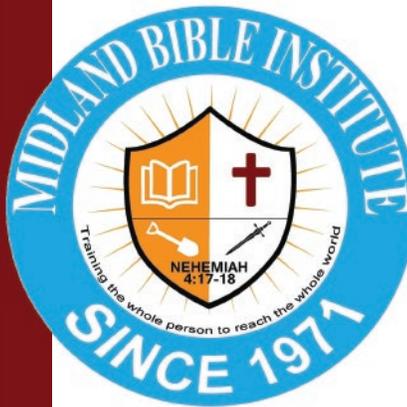
COVER PHOTO: Mike Dilione and MBI students in Jamaica



MIDLAND BIBLE INSTITUTE

A Missionary Family Ministers to Students In and Out of the Classroom

BY MIKE & MELINDA DILIONE



On January 7, 2020, we began our fifth year of serving on the mission field in Jamaica. We, along with our two children Annabelle and Asher, were first commended to the Lord's work on this island in August 2015. We moved to Trelawny, Jamaica, in January 2016 to work among the parish's local Brethren churches, which were five in all. Melinda was three-months pregnant when we arrived in Jamaica, and our third child, Aiden, was born in Jamaica in July 2016.

We were commended for two years, so in January 2018, we returned from the field, praying about what was next for us. We considered if we should continue to minister in Jamaica, serve cross-culturally in another country, work in full-time ministry in the US, or return to secular jobs in New Jersey. Then, an opportunity to return to Jamaica to serve on a volunteer basis at Midland Bible Institute (MBI) arose. We prayed earnestly about it for a few months and met with our elders regularly. The Lord led us to return to Jamaica, this time to the other side of the island in May Pen, and we began serving at MBI in August 2018. Mike has always desired to teach at the tertiary level, and Melinda has a heart for ministering to college students.

Educating for Christ

Midland Bible Institute started in 1971, through the vision and founding of Emile Turner, a Jamaican missionary. The institution grew from the desire to have church ministry workers who are theologically and practically trained and equipped to deal with the educational, economic, cultural, and social realities of Jamaica and the world. Along with academic excellence, the program maintains a strong spiritual and devotional emphasis, which is supplemented with hands-on experience, hence the school's motto: "Training the whole person to reach the whole world."

Frank Fenton, a missionary from Britain, was MBI's first principal. Initially, the institution offered a three-year diploma in theology, and later, a one-year certificate in Bible and ministry was incorporated into the program. In 2005, MBI started its first degree program; in 2010, the school registered with the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) as a tertiary institution providing training at a bachelor's level. In 2018, the UCJ granted MBI accredi-



Left: Throughout the semester, Mike and the MBI students occasionally visit local schools to lead morning devotions.



tation, and presently, MBI offers a Bachelor of Arts in theology and a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, as well as the certificate in Bible and ministry. In January 2020, Dr. Christopher Clarke became the new principal, after Dr. Shonna Leigh served as acting principal for more than four years. Currently, 30 students are enrolled at MBI on full- and part-time bases.

Fulfilling ministry roles

Mike acts as the dean of students and lectures theological courses where needed. Currently, he is teaching New Testament Survey, Missions, Introduction to Hebrew 1, and Biblical Eldership. Last year, Mike taught Old Testament Survey, Greek 1 and 3, and Historical Theology. As dean of students, Mike serves as the point of information for students and responds to their needs. He plans functions related to student development and campus life. Mike also serves on MBI's curriculum and academic committees and oversees the student council. Chapel sessions are held three days per week, and Mike assists in teaching and leading discussions for this mandatory component of the program. With his background in business, Mike helped MBI's financial department get their accounting books online and assisted in clarifying some financial concerns and making the cash flow more transparent.

Melinda works with MBI's staff in communications, which includes writing and distributing a quarterly newsletter, creating promotional content, managing MBI's Facebook and Instagram accounts (@MidlandBibleInstitute), and assisting with social and fellowship events at the school. She has an active presence at the school and a loving relationship with the students, many of whom have nicknamed her "mother." She is passionate about feeding people and exercising hospitality, which is the perfect match for always hungry college students.

Providing fellowship

Early in the 2018 to 2019 school year, we began First Saturday Fellowship Night, held in the student lounge for all on- and off-campus students. We encourage MBI staff and lecturers to at-

tend too. Our vision for this monthly event is to foster unity and community and enhance the unique, familylike atmosphere of a small university—something we didn't experience in our college years. Each month, we change the events. Most of the gatherings have consisted of team-building games, icebreakers, discussion, and one movie night. Of course, we have lots of food because, again, hungry college students! First Saturday Fellowship Night is our favorite ministry opportunity. We get to spend time with the students in a laid-back atmosphere, talk, connect, and dig deeper than we can while in the classroom or a professional setting. Our three children love attending this monthly event. They think it's a blast to play games with college students who love on them like brothers and sisters.

We're slowly making cosmetic improvements to the student lounge with the purchase of used couches, a refrigerator for the students, a desk and chair for studying, and a new rug. We envision this room as a warm, welcoming, and comfortable space that will encourage regular fellowship among the students and staff.



Studying the Bible

Outside of our formal responsibilities at MBI are a vast number of other ministry opportunities. In 2019, we started a Bible study that meets twice per month in our home. Our vision for this ministry is to reach the youth from our local church, but we



Top (L-R): In 2018, Annabel, Asher, and Aiden were excited to arrive at MBI; Melinda spends time with a resident at a local home for the elderly, which MBI students visited on a missions trip; MBI students and local men pray before beginning a soccer match, which they have twice per week at the school; Mike leads a chapel session for students at MBI.



We're passionate about impacting lives outside the classroom walls as much as we are during class times.

also invite MBI students who are available. We have a consistent group of 8 to 10 young people—some from church and some from MBI. We're studying different forms of relationships: our relationship with Christ, with fellow believers, and with unbelievers. Melinda serves a meal after the study, and we end with a great time of fellowship.

Discipling and counseling

Another passion of ours is making disciples. We are burdened to teach and train the young people around us to glorify God with their lives and enjoy Him forever. We have many informal discipleship relationships with MBI students. They're always observing how we speak and how we conduct ourselves in our marriage, our parenting, the church, and beyond. We view times when students are in our home as a way of discipling them without a formal title placed on it. We also have more structured discipleship opportunities and counseling sessions. Two MBI students were dating when we met them, and right away, we felt that we could be positive role models for them. A few months ago, this couple married without telling anyone. While this situation was tough to work through at first, we started meeting with them in a formal counseling setting. Even though they're already married, we're studying a good premarital-counseling course with them biweekly and plan to continue meeting with them after the course ends.

Serving in the church

A huge component of life on the mission field is involvement in a local church. We are closely connected to a Brethren assembly in May Pen. Please pray for this gathering as it is composed mostly of elderly people and needs revival. During our first year in May Pen, Mike



spent many months teaching the adult Sunday school class, and Melinda helped start a children's Sunday school class. Now, in our second year at MBI, Mike speaks more regularly at churches in surrounding parishes to share the Word and to represent and promote MBI. We enjoy the opportunity to experience many churches—to meet new people, make connections, and worship in various meeting places. Usually, we take a couple of MBI students with us when we travel to a new church. We see this as another chance to disciple the students in a laid-back way. While spending a long day with us, students see us at our best and our worst. When our kids are cranky and misbehaving on a long car ride, the students see how we handle the situation. Traveling with us also gives the students opportunities to freshen up their homiletic skills while hearing their professor speak and have great conversations over a Sunday meal. We're passionate about impacting lives outside the classroom walls as much as we are during class times.



Trusting God

We appreciate your prayers for our family as we continue to minister at MBI with the Lord's help. While we don't know how long God wants us at MBI, we know He has us here for a purpose, and for that, we're thankful! ■

Mike and Melinda Dilione are commended from Fifth Avenue Chapel in Belmar, New Jersey.



Page 4: (middle) The Dilione kids enjoy quality time with the MBI students; **(lower)** Twice per month, the Diliones open their home to MBI students and youth from their church for a Bible study. **Page 5: (left)** The Dilione kids and friends from the May Pen assembly play after Sunday school, which Melinda helped start; **(right)** MBI students often accompany the Diliones to other assemblies, where Mike guest preaches and the MBI students share testimonies.



The Power of Hospitality

An Open Home in Honduras Yields Countless Blessings

BY HOLLY WOOLER

When I was a girl, I loved baking cookies. In school, I enjoyed my home economics classes and did well in them. As a 19-year-old newlywed, I discovered that I needed to learn to cook more than desserts to properly feed my husband, and so, I began my journey to becoming a good cook.

During the first few years that Charlie and I were married, several women from our home chapel displayed wonderful examples of hospitality to me. Not only was their food delicious, but they made us feel welcome and relaxed as soon as we entered their homes. Now, I look back and see how much they influenced my outlook on hospitality.

The Lord looks for those who want to know His will and obey it, and His will for our lives was to serve as missionaries, moving first to Ecuador and then to Honduras. I appreciate that He equips us for the jobs He calls us to and patiently leads us in the process.

Learning to serve

At the beginning of our ministry in Ecuador, we were involved in a literature ministry. We hosted three young men for several months to help Charlie in the print shop, which began my introduction into hospitality. Throughout the years in Ecuador, we had guests come and go—people came for meals, and groups came for fellowship and fun. I learned the hard way that it was a mistake to knock myself out with cooking and cleaning all day because then I had little energy to enjoy the company when they arrived. I realized that the guests are the most important part of getting together.

When we moved to Honduras, we found the Lord's work there was very different from that in Ecuador—it was an older, more established work. Once we moved into a house that was centrally located in the city, we began a discipleship program to better equip leaders in their assemblies. We built bunk beds

to sleep 20 in dorm rooms and hosted large groups of men four times per year. While keeping everyone fed was challenging, I often felt like a school nurse, dispensing cold medicine, throat lozenges, and Tylenol. I learned much from these experiences, including that I wanted to treat these men the same way I would want their wives to treat my husband if he were in their home. So I made sure my guests were comfortable and had whatever they needed while they were away from home.

Building relationships

When this ministry ended, the Lord opened the doors to other areas of great need. Young people from around the country come to study at the national university near our home. We have an open invitation for university students to join us for a hot lunch and Bible study in our home on Fridays. The students can invite classmates, saved or unsaved, who would enjoy a good meal and Bible study. Some students return to the university for more classes while others hang around our house for the fellowship.

These weekly lunches have provided opportunities for the young women to help me serve the food and clean up. Spending time together has given us a chance to get to know one another better. I feel free to ask questions, talk about things that matter or about personal things, or lovingly correct someone in private. In this way, I can show that I care, find out where they stand spiritually, and ask important questions. All of this has grown out of hospitality.

Setting examples

I grew up in a good home, but I wasn't able to observe what a Christian home was like until my teen years. One of my classmates, who invited me to youth group, grew up in a loving Christian family, and her parents patiently pulled me in under their

benevolent wings. Through their constant prayers and godly testimony, I came to know Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. Words fail to express the gratitude I have for them and the debt I owe them for opening their hearts and home to me.

With this godly family's example in my youth, it's not surprising that we find ourselves with both young people and unsaved Sunday school children in our home much of the time. We strive to be godly examples to them through opening our home and our arms, giving our time and advice, and being available at all times. It isn't an easy job, but we are grateful the Lord has entrusted it to us for the time being.

Fulfilling God's instruction

Are missionaries the only ones who are called to be hospitable? Both 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 list hospitality as a qualification for an elder or overseer. For sheep to thrive, the shepherds must know them personally. As believers, we are all instructed to be "given to hospitality." (Romans 12:13) Whether sharing a meal around a table or over a pot of coffee, it's important for us to get to know one another so we can be caring brothers and sisters in Christ. My life has become richer because of the people we have served over the years.

Invite someone over soon; don't wait until your house is spotless. Be yourself and make people feel at home. Talk about things that matter. Encourage them spiritually. Not only will you be a blessing, but you will be blessed in return. After all, isn't that the true meaning of hospitality? ■



Holly and Charles Wooler are commended from North-Ridge Bible Chapel in Sellersville, Pennsylvania.



From top (L-R): Although Holly must make many foods from scratch, which takes longer, she enjoys cooking for her guests; Showing hospitality can mean a snack as simple as tropical fruit and a cappuccino; In 2011, the Woolers welcomed the first group of university students to their Friday lunch and Bible study; Young people enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal with the Woolers, a first for most of them; The Woolers practice hospitality outside their home too, taking students to La Tigra National Park; After witnessing at the nearby university, Charlie and several students enjoy a picnic lunch.



11 DAYS IN

A CHURCH TRAVELS OVERSEAS IN FAITH

BY CALVIN FRITCHEY



When planning a missions trip, many believers choose to travel somewhere based on friends', acquaintances', or other travelers' recommendations. Such was the case for Bible Truth Chapel (BTC), in Miami, Florida, when it considered its first short-term missions trip. We were excited when BTC's elders decided to look into the possibility of our chapel participating in missions. Since I am on the South Florida Missionary Class (SFMC) board, we had a connection to Sean and Vera O'Byrne (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 15), missionaries to Belize. SFMC invited them to share about their work in Belize and scheduled Sean to speak at local meetings, including BTC. Many of BTC's saints bonded with the O'Byrnes, and Sean and Vera mentioned that they participate in MSC's eTeams and encouraged us to try it out. Several years ago, a couple, Francis and Nadia Usher, moved from Belize to Miami and started attending BTC, so this was another link to Belize. We provided our elders with a list of opportunities, and they selected eTeams Belize.

THE TEAM

As we announced this trip, about 10 to 12 people expressed interest. Eventually, seven people committed to go, with the Lord's leading. Short-term missions can be expensive due to airline tickets, transportation expenses, evangelistic materials, and accommodations. The Lord provided for a total of nine people to participate. Our team included Nelson and Vivian Jimenez, Clarissa Robles, Francis and Nadia Usher, and myself and my wife, Becky. Besides those of us from BTC, Jonathan Lee, from Canada, joined the team, and Sean O'Byrne planned the trip and co-led it with Wayne Guindon, an evangelist from Prince Edward Island and a former MSC missionary to El Salvador.

THE SCHEDULE

We arrived in Belize City on Saturday, November 9, and stayed through Tuesday, November 19. Our first stop was the famous multicolored *Belize* sign, where we took pictures and distrib-

uted some tracts and invitations to church. We quickly learned that Belizeans are very willing to accept Christian literature.

Each day, we kept an intense schedule of evangelism. We woke up at 6:00 a.m. and had breakfast, team devotions, and prayer. Depending on the distance, we arrived at a school around 8:00 a.m. to sing, share testimonies, perform rope tricks or other eye-catching object lessons, and then present a 20-minute gospel message. Then, we traveled to a prison, rehab center, or a home for the elderly to do the same things—sing, share testimonies, and present the Gospel. At these places, three of the women on our team shared their testimonies for the first time, and the results were amazing. The men also gave their testimonies, and their stories seemed to resonate with some of the people. After the hour-long presentations, we talked to people and gave them literature. We distributed more than 8,000 Bibles, booklets, and tracts, including "How to Get to Heaven from Belize," "Are You for Real?," and "Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment." Some days, we went to the downtown malls and distributed literature, preached in the streets with a microphone and speaker, and witnessed at bus stations. Then, we headed "home" for a short rest period. Through Myrna, a dear sister at Grace Chapel, God provided a two-story home with air conditioning for us to stay in. After a meeting at the chapel, we arrived home for the night around 9:30 p.m. Depending on the day's activities, we ate dinner at 9:30 p.m. sometimes.

THE RESULTS

The Lord blessed our efforts, and we saw seven men make professions of faith. Of that number, five were inmates in a prison, one attended a gospel outreach at Berea Bible Chapel, and another listened during our downtown outreach. We also evangelized door-to-door, distributed tracts in local stores, and, at bus stops, asked directions on how to get to heaven. It's interesting to watch people's reaction when you say, "Excuse me, I seem to be lost. Can you direct me on how I can get to heaven?"



We had opportunities to provide food for poor families. In Belize, many husbands abandon their wives and children. One woman has six children, ages 1 to 14, and another woman cares for her two children and five nieces and nephews, whose mother died and whose father is not present. At one chapel, an older man with AIDS made a profession of salvation. He has financial needs, so we entrusted the chapel leaders with some money for him, and they will distribute it when needed.

For our teammate Clarissa, this trip was her first time overseas without her family. She handed out tracts, talked with residents at the homes for the elderly, and interacted with children. She helped us film an end-of-the-day video, recapping the days' activities, for the eTeams' blog. We were encouraged to see her become bolder and overcome her fears.

THE NEEDS

We participated in two evenings of eTeams training on topics like church leadership and preparing messages. We invited the local assemblies to join us. We had more than 50 believers each night, which encouraged us. While many faithful women participate in the assemblies we visited, the churches have a great need for faithful men. Each assembly has two or three faithful men, and they are elderly. One church had three elders, but in the last year, one died, one developed a debilitating illness, and one, who is blind, contracted dengue. Leadership is a great need for these assemblies.

THE TAKEAWAY

While our trip was challenging, the Lord provided and blessed. We are thankful that God's Word will not return to Him void because it is His Word and His work! ■

Calvin Fritchey is in fellowship at Bible Truth Chapel in Miami, Florida.



Above left: Nadia and Clarissa offer a man a tract. **Right (from top):** Nadia shares her testimony with students at a local school; While witnessing door-to-door, the team met people of all ages, including playful kids; Street preaching, Wayne and Jonathan use a loud speaker and signs to catch people's attention; At a local school, the students enjoy Calvin's object lesson of a rotten apple core.

REACHING HIGHER 2020

THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BY SARAH DUNLAP

Over the weekend of February 7 to 9, 2020, about 50 young adults gathered at CMML in Wall, New Jersey, for Reaching Higher. For the past 10 years, Reaching Higher has been a time of fellowship, Bible study, and reflection for people in their 20s and 30s, drawing attendees from across the US and even Canada.

Focusing on “The Church in the 21st Century,” the weekend featured five teaching sessions and a Q&A time with Dr. Steve Price, of Overland Park, Kansas, and three breakout seminars with David VanDuzer (former missionary to France), Joey Monteleone (Terrill Road Bible Chapel in Fanwood, New Jersey), and Dr. Price. After the first session on Friday night, attendees chatted with old and new friends over pizza and group games. During break times on Saturday, participants enjoyed a trip to the nearby beach, a tour of the CMML facility, games, and singing around CMML’s baby grand piano. To celebrate Reaching Higher’s 10th anniversary, everyone enjoyed cake and ice cream after dinner and acknowledged the longest-attending participants—three of whom attended nine of the years. On Sunday, everyone gathered for a worshipful Breaking of Bread, which was followed by a concluding message from Dr. Price and lunch before departure.

Dr. Price opened the weekend’s teaching with a comparison of the contemporary church to the Old Testament Temple. Building on that idea, he considered the church’s anatomy and physiology and three tenets—biblical headship, the Holy Spirit’s filling, and believer priesthood—while challenging his audience to reevaluate their perspectives on each. The three rotating breakout sessions supplemented the theme. David VanDuzer analyzed each personality type’s unique style of personal evangelism; Joey Monteleone considered the why of attending an assembly; and Dr. Price discussed the approaches to mental health within a Christian context.

Visit [Facebook.com/cmmlus](https://www.facebook.com/cmmlus) to view photos of the weekend, and listen to recordings of the messages at [CMML.us](https://www.cmml.us). Lord willing, next year’s Reaching Higher will take place on February 5 to 7, 2021. Please encourage your assembly’s young adults to attend! ■

Sarah Dunlap is the assistant editor of Missions.



Ask a Missionary

Missions work around the world is often very different from what friends and family at home encounter day to day. So, to learn about life on the field while getting to know our missionaries better, we asked them to share their firsthand experience or advice.

QUESTION: What advice would you give to someone considering missionary service?



Be sure before the Lord that it is He Who wants you on the field. If He wants you there, then trust Him implicitly, and He will see you through every hardship, of which there will be many. Attend the Missionary Orientation Program and learn as much as you can from those who have been in your country of service.



1. If married, make sure both husband and wife sense the Lord's leading to mission service. If the Lord is in it, He will draw both to service, not just one.

2. Go out only if you have the blessing of the leadership of your local assembly and not against their advice regarding timing, suitability, training, and so on.

3. You will not suddenly become more spiritual by crossing culture for ministry. The same practices, habits, and faults will accompany you to the field.



Continue in God's Word and prayer, seeking His will. The Lord will show you His will as you keep asking Him. My husband, Peter, and I prayed individually and together. The more we prayed, the more convinced we were that the Lord wanted to use us in the Philippines.



Be patient. Even though your desire to serve the Lord overseas may be very strong, wait on His timing. And while you wait, serve Him where you are. He will use the lessons and experiences you gain while you're waiting. When you finally arrive in the country of your calling, again, be patient. You may not be able to plunge into the work you consider important right away. But the same principle holds true. With God, no time of "waiting" is lost time.



1. Obtain as much biblical knowledge as you can before you go—you likely have more access to in-depth Bible studies and Bible college classes in North America than you will overseas. We audited 10 classes at Lancaster Bible College and earned certificates in biblical studies.

2. Make language learning a top priority in your schedule and budget. Learn what you can before you go, and take every opportunity in your first year to learn the language, even if that means saying "not yet" to some ministry opportunities.

3. Learn about the foreign country's laws, especially pertaining to taxes, social security, and options for children's education.

4. Have someone in North America who can open your mail, scan important documents, and sign checks on your behalf. You may need to add this person to your bank account as an authorized signer before you go.

(Note: The VanDuzers are former CMML missionaries who recently returned to the US.)

ASK YOUR QUESTIONS! Visit [CMML.us/askamissionary](https://www.cmml.us/askamissionary) to submit your question—it might be selected for a future issue!