

April 2015

Missions

National Bible Study Club
Reaching Children in
Ireland

A Welder's Mission
to the **Philippines**

The Growing
**Peruvian
Assemblies**

Report: 2015
Reaching Higher





Thinking It Through

ROBERT SULLIVAN

A Day like No Other

It was just a few years back. I was coming off two very long weeks of ministry. During the first week, I spoke to the senior teen camp at Horton Haven Christian Camp in Tennessee. I then drove to Alabama that Friday evening to participate in a weekend conference (this was especially challenging as the area had been devastated by a rash of tornadoes several weeks earlier). I then flew to Houston, rented a car and drove out to Sandy Creek Bible Camp. All told, I spoke 25 times and held several cabin devotionals over the course of 14 days.

I was exhausted and looked forward to “crashing” on the Delta flight home. That’s probably a bad choice of words to use in reference to a flight, but I was looking forward to some serious sleep as the plane made its way out to the runway from one of Houston’s airports.

Flying is a regular part of my life. I have never been afraid to fly and have experienced all kinds of flying conditions. This flight, however, would be like no other one for me.

I suspected things might not be right when the pilot informed us he was seeking permission for the plane to fly

The sight of a flight attendant racing down the aisle left no doubt that something was wrong.

over its recommended gross weight. I’m not sure why you would do that with close to 200 passengers aboard. I am even less sure why a pilot would make such an announcement as he is getting ready to pull back from the gate.

The weight of the aircraft may or may not have had something to do with the trouble that was in store for us. As the plane raced down the runway, the vent system started spewing water—we basically experienced a mini-shower in the aircraft. As odd as that was, the sight of a flight attendant racing down the aisle in a full sprint only a minute later left no doubt that something was wrong.

We never did find out what she was looking for in the back of the cabin. The aircraft had a great deal of difficulty picking

up altitude. Instead of going into that normal steep climb associated with takeoffs, it was more like a roller coaster ride. After several harrowing minutes, the lead flight attendant informed us that our jet was in trouble and would turn around in an effort to make it back to the airport. Not long afterward, the cockpit door flew open and smoke began to fill the cabin.

The tension on the aircraft was pronounced, as you might expect. The pilot informed us that the plane could not make it back to Houston and he would set it down wherever he could. You can imagine the reaction among the passengers—a few began to cry, a couple even prayed aloud. Only a few minutes earlier I was getting ready for a long slumber, but now—well let’s just say that I was wide-awake.

My thoughts went to the Lord Jesus Christ! In a real sense, the next few minutes were completely out of my control. The words of 2 Corinthians 4:14 came front and center to my mind: “Knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.”

The resurrection of Christ guarantees that anyone who believes in Him will be raised from the dead to everlasting life in close fellowship with God. The resurrection of Jesus is an incontrovertible fact of history, and it forever changed the outcome of the journey we take in this life—at least the journey of those who have put their trust in Christ as their Savior.

Each year, families and fellowships alike suffer the loss of loved ones and the heartache that goes along with it. However, the resurrection of the Lord from the grave places the believer in a position to live like no one else and to die like no one else. For we know where we are going!

The Delta flight crew sure performed well under pressure that summer day. The pilot put the plane down in a wheat field before skipping it onto a small runway made for propeller craft. There were a few bumps and bruises and a few burst eardrums, but the passengers fared well, all things considered.

The Lord Jesus Christ’s resurrection guarantees a safe landing from this life for all who put their trust in Him! It sure was a day like no other! ■

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The Faithfulness of God Ireland's National Bible Study Club

BY PENNY DEFOUW AND HOLLY DOBSON



“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22–23

It has been seven years since an article highlighting the work of the National Bible Study Club has been written. In reflecting on what God has done through the ministry of NBSC in the Republic of Ireland, we are constantly amazed in God’s faithfulness to us and to the ministry, resulting in praise to our wonderful God.

The history of the National Bible Study Club goes back many years. In 1963, a systematic mailing offered a Gospel to every home in Ireland. The National Bible Study Club, formerly known as “Look and Live,” began from responses received. The NBSC is a faith-based ministry reaching out to children throughout the island of Ireland and further afield with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is supported by gifts from individual Christians, churches and organizations.

In the 2008 article (*Missions*, April 2008), I shared concerning the various ministries and outreaches that come under the umbrella of the NBSC, and I am pleased to say that each of these ministries is very active and still going strong. God is using each one (Bible Studies Institute—adult Bible study courses and Scripture text posters—displaying the Word of God in public places) for the furtherance of the Gospel. But at this time, we want to highlight the ministry to children throughout the island of Ireland.

God’s faithfulness displayed

God’s faithfulness is so evident. The first thing you would see if you visited us is that we are in a new office housed on the property of Shankill Bible Church—more room and no more leaky roof! More evidence of God’s faithfulness is seen on the inside; since we moved in 2009 we needed to replace the computers and, more recently, our printer. These replacements were a huge expense to the ministry, but our God “owns the cattle on a thousand hills.” On the day we decided to go ahead with the purchase of a new printer, as the old one had “died,” the Lord provided more than half the price and before the final bill was due, all the finances were there!

Even more recently, we saw God’s faithfulness as He guided us concerning the need of a website that would make the Bible lessons available online. We have prayed much concerning this as our postage cost is extremely high for sending out hundreds of lessons plus New Testaments, devotional booklets and possible library books each month. But God brought to our attention a web designer, who agreed to undertake this

National Bible Study Club Office



Gordon's Club

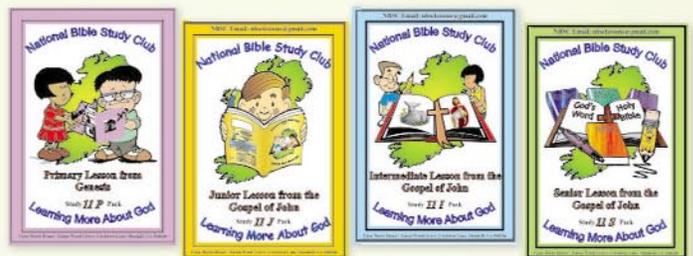


huge task, and God provided the finances to get the website up and running. This is currently a work in progress in its very early stage.

These are huge blessings in our eyes, but what God is doing in the lives of the children is even more wonderful. For instance, we received an email from one of our study leaders who wrote the following: *I have just had the most encouraging letter from C. who did the Bible lessons as a child. She often told me of her longing to be saved but didn't know how she would face her family and friends and thought she would leave it till she was older. I advised her not to put the matter off and we continued to correspond frequently. She just wrote to tell me she got saved and is now baptized!* This was now several years later and C. is a university student. What more can we say but "praise the Lord!"

The ministry at work

The NBSC reaches out to children in both the Republic of Ireland and the U.K. Each month hundreds of children receive a Bible study course through the mail. All children also receive a New Testament free of charge to help them with their lessons.



Over the past few years, the work has grown as Ireland saw many asylum seekers coming for refuge from African countries. Many of their children are doing the lessons, month by month, along with the Irish and other foreign immigrant children. They learn about the club mainly by one friend telling another. The children start the lessons in the Gospel of John and progress through the remaining Gospels and Book of Acts, which can take up to seven years. If they desire to continue to study the Bible, they proceed through the Old and New Testaments. Each child is assigned to a study leader who comes alongside them marking their lessons, answering questions and generally being a friend and mentor to them, encouraging and reinforcing the gospel message contained in the lessons.

As part of the club, the children can become a “bookworm.” Presently, there are more than 800 Christian stories and biographies along with good moral storybooks available for the children to borrow from the NBSC lending library. Each month many children borrow books which are sent out with their Bible lessons.

Another aspect of the club is the *Crossroads Magazine*, produced five times per year. The magazine contains serial stories, articles on relevant issues, puzzles and competitions. We also invite the children to submit some of their own stories, jokes and poetry. They enjoy seeing their entries and name in print.

Summer camp fees are subsidized by a sponsorship program offered to each student. Each month throughout the year the children’s lesson marks are tallied, and a voucher is sent in the spring for the amount they earned. This amount could be as high as 24 euros (approximately \$30) per child. These vouchers can be used toward any Child Evangelism Fellowship or Bible Club Camp held in Ireland. Camp is one of the times that we get a chance to actually meet and get to know the children as we help at both the Easter and summer camps.

We also interact with club members during the children’s Crossroads Bible Club run by an Irish believer, Gordon Harper, and held in another suburb of Dublin. Currently, many of the children attending are from families who have sought asylum in Ireland and struggle with the English language. We help with this club once a month, coming alongside the children as they do the Bible lessons. We often come away with our ears ringing due to the noise level and the children’s excitement as they get to meet us and vice versa.

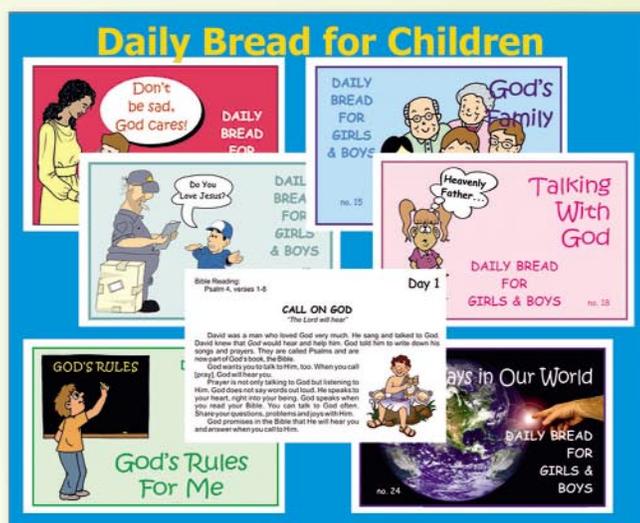
Over the past number of years, all 100 NBSC Bible lessons have been updated and made more appealing to today’s child. The revisions changed typed black and white papers to computerized full-color 10-page booklets. Another major undertaking was to reprint and redesign, by permission from Child Evangelism Fellowship, a series of 24 devotional booklets entitled *Daily Bread for Girls and Boys*. These devotionals have been fully updated and are now used by many of the children doing the Bible lessons.

Holly Dobson’s testimony

Over the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to work with the NBSC team on short-term visits to Ireland, and I have recently been commended to the work full-time. I am excited to join the team and to take part in a work that gives children the opportunity to be introduced to the Lord Jesus Christ and encourages them to develop the habit of regularly studying the Word of God. Even in the short time I have been involved with NBSC, I have seen the faithfulness of the Lord to His work and His servants.

Penny DeFouw’s testimony

It has been many years since I first stepped foot in Ireland. Moving from a dairy farm in Holland, Michigan, to the southern suburbs of Ireland’s capital Dublin was a huge change in my life. I was born into a family with five siblings and in 1969 born again into an innumerable family of God’s children. My years before Ireland held many days of questioning God as to what He was doing and what His plan was for my life; I did not understand or know what His will was for me. But the Lord assured me He was in control and gave me Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” And in 1980 I knew the Lord was leading me to serve Him in Ireland and felt the Lord telling me that this was what He was preparing me for. After much prayer, guidance from His Word and my assembly elders, and finally the blessing from my parents, I came to Ireland in January 1981. So, if you have your “math hat” on, you will see that I have been in Ireland for more than 34 years, serving the King of Kings, our wonderful, faithful God.



Easter Camp Bus Trip



Holly, Penny
and
Frank Carolan

Points for Prayer and Praise

- Salvation for children doing NBSC lessons and growth for those who know the Lord.
- Wisdom for study leaders who are mentors and mark the children's lessons and who try to answer the children's many questions.
- Wisdom for the website development process and that we can have it up and running in the very near future to help cut down our postage costs.
- Praise for bringing Holly to join Frank Carolan (Irish commended missionary) and Penny in the NBSC ministry and prayer as we work together in unity to reach out to the hundreds of boys and girls in Ireland with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Praise for the Lord's provision for the new office building and for the equipment needed to keep the ministry up and running. ■

Penny DeFouw was commended in 1981 by the assembly in Holland, Michigan. Holly Dobson attended the 2014 Missionary Orientation Program and was recently commended by Palos Hills Christian Assembly in Illinois [see page 23].

Meet CMML's Newest Director



Joel Hernandez was nominated to the CMML Board of Directors on December 6, 2014. Raised as an MK in Mexico, Joel received his education at Emmaus Bible College, Dallas Seminary and from godly saints who poured into his life. He and his wife, Amy, have worked in evangelism and discipleship among Hispanics in the U.S. and served for eight years as church-planting missionaries in Mexico. Joel moved back to the U.S. in 2007 to become the chair of the Intercultural Studies Department at Emmaus Bible College.

Joel serves as an elder at Asbury Community Chapel in Dubuque, Iowa, and teaches at the Missionary Orientation Program conducted by CMML and MSC Canada. He keeps busy mentoring Emmaus students, promoting Biblical training through the Brethren Training Network, teaching leaders of Spanish-speaking assemblies in the U.S., and organizing an international assembly missions conference for Spanish-speaking countries. His passion is to see God's glory spread throughout the world through obedience to the Great Commission.

We are delighted to welcome Joel to the board and ask you to pray with us that the Lord may guide and direct His work at CMML.

BUILDING MISSIONS-MINDED ASSEMBLIES

LAWRENCE BIBLE CHAPEL
LAWRENCE, KS

Pray Care Give

SPEAKERS:
GIL VARGAS AND MARK SWAIM

APRIL 25-26, 2015

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
4:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
9:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

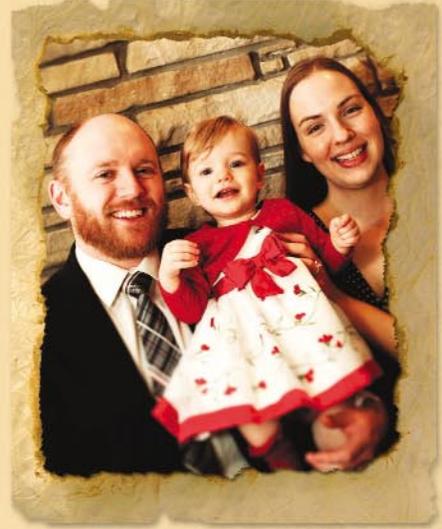
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MAY WE INTRODUCE

Brock & Kelly Smith Missionaries to Japan



Brock's Testimony

I was born into a godly family which instilled in me Scripture's authority, God's holiness and the need for salvation. At five years old, I received the Lord Jesus. My father trained pastors and missionaries at a local Bible college, so I was exposed to missionary service from my youth. Unfortunately, during my adolescence, I wandered away from my Savior. Instead, I gave all my energy to the practice of martial arts. Though I kept up appearances, deep inside, I was addicted to sins which had gradually crept in. I had little interest in the things of God, but the Lord faithfully changed all that. He used His Word and the death of three friends to bring me to an end of myself and back to Himself. One night, being sick of my sin and hating my hypocritical life, I repented and confessed all, giving my life back to my Savior and asking Him to do with me whatever He willed. Thus, He began to plant the seeds of a call to the mission field.

My martial arts training had imparted a love for Asia, and the Lord would use this to narrow my focus on Japan. Since I had determined to work in the film industry as a stuntman/martial artist, I continued this pursuit—only now with a desire to be a witness for Christ. This was very difficult and for a time He enabled me to serve Him in this way. After making a few short films for His glory, I saw this door shut. Meanwhile, I met a Japanese man who drastically changed the direction of my life.

Taka Imayama and I were employed at an assembly plant together and became immediate friends. I felt a strong burden to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with him. Not completely understanding the historic difficulty of the Japanese coming to saving faith, I nevertheless undertook whatever I could to evangelize Taka while remaining his friend. With the 2008 economic downturn, we both lost our jobs, yet this was the Lord's will. Taka moved back to Japan to run his father's business. This allowed me to visit—and later work for him for a time—and experience the country to which the Lord Jesus was calling me to go.

Kelly's testimony

I have Christian parents and my mother began teaching me about Jesus from a young age. When I was five, I accepted Jesus Christ. I wanted to be part of God's family, and I knew Jesus had died in order to pay for my sins. However, as I grew older, I only grew a little in the faith. By the time I went to college, I'd slowly grown complacent about living a Christ-honoring life. I felt powerless against sin. I relied on myself; I did not have an understanding of the Spirit's power and work in the process of sanctification. During and after college, I lived for myself and what I thought would make me happy. I still trusted Jesus as my Savior, but I restricted God to a small compartment of my life. I was stuck in an ignorant rut concerning the importance and power of the Word of God. In spite of this, when I listened to visiting missionaries giving reports, I often sensed that the Lord might be calling me to be a missionary. In my mid-20s, at a small church, I saw that following Jesus positively changed people's lives. When I was getting to know Brock better, I could see clearly how much he had grown since high school. These observations turned me away from pursuing "happiness" and toward pursuing the joy of the Lord. I thank God that Christ remained faithful even when I was faithless (2 Timothy 2:13).

Together

Kelly and I went to high school together but did not marry until nine years later. We married knowing that the Lord might call us to Japan. In His providence, He brought us to the assemblies and brought more Japanese friends into our lives. We submitted, waited and looked to Him to make known His will—and He has! We have been called to Japan to preach the Gospel and make disciples. ■



Willing to Serve A Welder's Mission to the Philippines

BY JOSHUA TRAVERSE

Why would I go to Guiuan, Philippines, a place that I never heard of before, didn't know where it was, nor did I know anybody there? Well, the answer to this question begs us to rewind seven years to when I was 17 years old. I took my first short-term missions trip to Romania to visit missionaries and the local assemblies in their areas at the end of my high school career. It was this first short-term experience that turned my heart and mind to full-time missions. A year later I was in Romania again on another short-term trip, followed closely by attending Emmaus Bible College to pursue a degree in Intercultural Studies. There I met my soon-to-be wife, who was also pursuing missions. Let's fast forward a few years, add a child into the mix and my becoming a welder, we are in the spring of 2014, still far away from the Philippines.

Phil forwarded a newsletter from Paul Kulikovsky, a missionary in the Philippines. Last year the city of Guiuan and the surrounding area were destroyed by Typhoon Haiyan, which also demolished the local church building. Paul was in urgent need of a welder/fabricator to finish building and installing the trusses for the new church roof. I was still hesitant to consider traveling to the Philippines during my layoff, but with my wife's encouragement, and a few days praying and considering this opportunity, it seemed that this was something the Lord wanted me to do. I greatly desired the elders approval and support, so after much prayer, I approached them with this opportunity and asked for their guidance. They responded with excitement and support and encouraged me to go on this trip, adding that they would help in any way they could.

God's **leading**



In June 2014 my wife and I attended the Missionary Orientation Program presented by CMML and MSC Canada for further missions preparation. During MOP, Phil Parsons from CMML asked if I ever considered using my welding experience in the Philippines to help with relief work. Quickly I rejected the idea, since my wife and I felt strongly led to pursue missions in Eastern Europe. Months later, as October approached and I would soon be on a temporary layoff from work, I sought the Lord's guidance as to what I should do for that month without employment. While working one night I prayed, "Lord, I want to be used by you; please show me what you would have me do." I came home from work that night and found an email from Phil.

With an **invitation** to serve the Lord overseas, the **support** of my elders and local assembly, **encouragement** of my wife, a week of **prayer**, finances provided and a never-waning **desire** to be overseas, how could I say no?

Within a week I was in contact with Paul and found out that another brother from Australia planned to go help during the month of October but still needed another hand. With an invitation to serve the Lord overseas, the support of my elders and local assembly, encouragement of my wife, a week of prayer, finances provided and a never-waning desire to be overseas, how could I say no? Roughly two weeks after Phil forwarded the newsletter, I boarded a plane bound for the Philippines, and left my pregnant wife and 11-month-old daughter home.

Above: The chapel building in Guiuan with the roof blown away and resulting damage (photo by Philip Parsons).

Hard work to support discipleship

When entering a developing country I have learned to keep an adventurous outlook, my expectations simple and my eyes open to the beauty of a different culture and people. So, when entering the Philippines with eyes wide, savoring the new sights, sounds, smells and tastes, I was ready for the adventure. I knew this trip was a service trip and my purpose was simple—to serve a missionary and the local church. I spent most of my short time there welding or cutting steel. There was nothing fancy or of great importance, just dirty, hard, hot work. I went with the purpose to serve and use a skill God has given me. But, short-term trips can change your perspective on life or permanently alter your life. My first short-term trip to Eastern Europe turned my heart from pursuing engineering to pursuing full-time missions. On this short-term trip God also burdened my heart with an additional desire.



Paul Kulikovsky has dedicated many years to planting and growing churches in the Philippines and discipling young men to lead these churches. Seeing the fruit that has come from this dedication changed my understanding of church planting. For the past ten years Paul has been discipling young men in Guiuan. Today, those once boys that came to know the Lord are young men leading the local church. Seeing the beauty of discipleship and church planting going hand-in-hand burdened my heart to learn and understand more about this method. Truly, here was God using Paul to fulfill the command “Go therefore and make disciples.”

That one phrase, “go therefore and make disciples of all nations,” needs to be the desire of all Christians. Whether you stay at home, go on a short-term trip or dedicate your life to missions, making disciples needs to be a high priority. While in Guiuan, I never had the opportunity to “evangelize,” or to “make disciples.” However, by helping with the physical needs and rebuilding the roof, Paul and others will have more time and opportunity to make disciples and grow the church. I’m thankful for the opportunity to be able to help a brother fulfill the Great Commission. My only regret is that I had only one week to serve the Lord and help this brother. ■



Joshua and Anna Traverse attended MOP in 2014 and are in fellowship at Gateway Bible Chapel, Clinton, Iowa.

Above (from top): A few boys playing in the streets; Making animal balloons for the kids my last night in Guiuan.



From left: A completed truss, waiting to be installed, sitting in the main worship area; Anthony Burrowes (from Australia) attaching the ladder trusses, with help from a local Filipino; The construction of the trusses and the full crew that was around to help; A local inlet where boats come with their daily catch.

REACHING HIGHER 2015

Living by Faith in an Age of Unbelief

BY CRAIG FRITCHEY



For the fifth year in a row, 50-plus young people (ages 20 to 39) packed into the CMML Guest Home for our annual Reaching Higher conference. Attendees came from Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey and even Quebec!

We were blessed to have Joel Hernandez, a CMML director, faculty member at Emmaus Bible College and former missionary to Mexico, as our speaker for the weekend. The theme was “Living by Faith in an Age of Unbelief.” Joel used the examples of Samuel, David, Ruth and Daniel to discuss how each rose above the unbelief of their day to faithfully serve the Lord.

This year’s small-group seminar sessions were especially impactful. Joel Hernandez led a discussion on how Christians should respond to immigration. John Loudon, missionary to Zambia (*Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 6*), shared about his family’s ministry with the Mission Flight Service. Finally, CMML president Bob Dadd led a lively discussion that challenged attendees to think about the future of the assemblies in North America and consider what should be done to keep the lamps burning brightly until the Lord returns. In each of these sessions we were encouraged that many attendees were willing and excited to thoughtfully share their ideas and struggles in service for the Lord.

A highlight this year was the Breaking of Bread service on Sunday morning. The meeting was full of beautiful singing, heartfelt prayers and young men sharing thoughts from the Scriptures. Many remarked that the service could have lasted much longer than the scheduled hour!

This yearly conference continues to be a refreshing time of teaching and fellowship for young adults. Lord willing, the next Reaching Higher conference will be held February 12–14, 2016, at the CMML Guest Home. ■

Craig Fritchey is CMML’s conference coordinator.

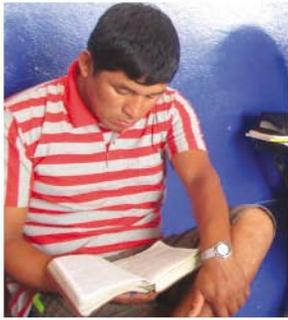


Scan the QR code or visit our website to listen to Joel Hernandez’s messages.
CMML.us/reachinghigher2015

Photos by Jeby Baby and Daniel Zwaagstra.

The Growing Peruvian Assemblies

& Their Commitment to Bible Teaching



BY KEITH R. KEYSER

From January 16 to February 2 our family was privileged to visit Peru to see some of the Lord's work in Lima, San Clemente, Independencia, and Parcona. We were greatly encouraged by our fellowship with the Peruvian saints as well as our time with two missionaries from the United States. Our visit fell into three stages: first, we spent two weeks participating in a time of systematic Bible instruction based in the San Clemente assembly; second, we visited the Parcona assembly near Ica, where we became better acquainted with Becky Hulshizer's ministry (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 26); and third, we visited the Covida assembly in Lima, where we saw some of Joel Clark's ministry (MPH Day 26) firsthand.



Becky Hulshizer with the Keyser family: Becky, Nadia, Naomi, Micah on lap, Keith, Fiona, and Anastasia.

Bible Seminar in San Clemente

An intensive Bible seminar was held January 4 through 31 at the El Shaddai Christian School and the meeting hall of the San Clemente assembly. It is summer during this time in Peru, and the schools and universities are on break. This allows time for intensive Christian work, benefitting from this time of "vacations." It was the 14th year for this seminar, and the location has changed over the years from Camp Betel ("Bethel") to Ayacucho to Lima and to San Clemente for the past two years. It was started by Daniel McKinley, Joel Clark, and various Peruvian elders. This year the teaching duties were shared by

three Peruvian brothers as well as Joel Clark, Rodolfo Vasquez of Chile, and me (brother Rodolfo taught for the first two weeks and I took his place for the second two weeks).

One of the Peruvian teachers, Dan Perez, has been a student in the seminar from its inception more than a decade ago. His family and he were preparing to relocate to the large city of Cuzco in February—famous with tourists for the nearby Incan ruins of Machu Picchu. They moved there to plant a new assembly, God willing. Of course, at the beginning it will be a pioneer work focusing on evangelism in the neighborhood

Above (left two): Students working on an exam; Above (right): Morning devotions. Map: ©iStockPhoto.com/belterz.

where they live. This work certainly needs to be bathed in prayer. Brother Dan has proven himself to be faithful in the past in Bible teaching and personal evangelism. It is encouraging to see the Lord raise up Peruvian workers who have the desire to open up new areas for the Lord to work. During our visit to San Clemente, we visited the assembly in nearby Independencia, where brother Dan previously labored, for their Wednesday evening meeting. He leaves behind a modest sized group, but one that seems to be going on well for the Lord.

From eight different assemblies in southcentral Peru, 28 students gathered to study, fellowship and serve together. They ranged in age from 15 years old to late 40s and represented various levels of Christian maturity. Some have been believers for only a few years; others are veteran believers with a proven track record of service in their home assemblies. The students must have displayed past maturity in their home assemblies. Brother Clark and the elders write each assembly to make sure that potential students have shown themselves faithful and committed to the Lord's things.



Above: (top) All the students and teachers from the discipleship seminar; **(bottom, L-R)** Joel Clark studying with students at the seminar; Students in the classroom. **Top right:** Joel translating for Keith at Independencia.

Having said that, there is obviously a wide variety of knowledge and maturity levels among the students. Some serve as overseers and others just want ongoing Bible teaching to help in their Christian life and work for the Lord. I was told



that in other years even senior citizens have come for the studies. What is more, the saints from the local assembly came out for the evening sessions. The seminar benefits from the leadership of the local San Clemente assembly, who also provided the lodging for the students in the school buildings and housed us with a local couple.

The course material is taken straight from the Word of God and this year included the following subjects: 1 Corinthians 8-13, Romans 1-8, Introduction to Bible Prophecy, 2 Corinthians 8-13, Bible Geography, Church Doctrine and Practice, The Life of Abraham, Bible Survey of the Prophets and the Poetical Books of the Bible, Sanctification, The Messianic Psalms, Preparing for Service, Ephesians 1-2:10, Philippians 1-2:12, Jonah, Nahum, Zephaniah, 1 Thessalonians, Colossians, Galatians, Titus, Philemon, The Life of Balaam, John 13-16, and 1 Samuel. The teaching lays heavy emphasis on the epistles as the core of the Church's belief and practice as well as the basis of Christian living. The teaching took place in a classroom setting with the students taking copious notes, doing daily homework assignments, and taking written exams at the discretion of each teacher. Some teachers wrote extensive study guides for their material. These bound booklets offer an excellent resource for ongoing study for the students when they return to their homes. The atmosphere of the school was serious and diligent in regard to the things of God.

As well as their rigorous studies, students got involved in practical service. This included serving in groups in different cleaning and cooking tasks as well as activities such as evangelism in the nearby towns on weekends. The program goes all day long till late at night, and by the end of the month, the students and the tired visitors who were only there for the second half of the month were definitely showing signs of fatigue. The intensive regimen left little time for rest and recreation, but we did enjoy an excursion to the beach.

Our family thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of the stu-



dents as well as the teachers and the sisters who worked extremely hard to cook for all of us. Our Peruvian brothers and sisters welcomed us with open arms, and despite the fact that Naomi and the children speak very little Spanish, they were treated especially warmly and made a fuss over by various ones. Micah, who is two and a half years old, had a strong 18-year-old named Johan who carried him about and took care of his every wish at meals. Likewise, our daughters (eight, six and four years old) were kindly received by a number of teenage and 20-something girls. It is beautiful to see Christian love that transcends culture and language, demonstrating the Holy Spirit's work of ministering to the Body of Christ. If you have not had the chance to visit missionaries in other countries, pray about it. The Lord will undoubtedly use it to encourage, bless, and instruct you.

Becky Hulshizer and the Parcona assembly

Between week one and two of the seminar, we were able to spend the weekend visiting Ica, an hour south of San Clemente. Becky Hulshizer has been a personal friend going back to our younger days in Pennsylvania. After praying for her work for the last several years, it was great to see some of it with our own eyes. She keeps a busy schedule of children's meetings in addition to counseling young Christian ladies and reaching out to people with the Gospel. We remembered the Lord in her home assembly in Parcona, and between Saturday night and Sunday evening I spoke five times on the book of Philipians. It was a quick visit but an encouraging one. When



Above: Believers at the Parcona Assembly in Ica where Becky Hulshizer attends.
Right: (top) Riding with brother Ronald in the mototaxi; **(bottom)** Daily trip to the market.

we left, Becky was organizing and preparing for a girls' camp at Betel Camp, a nearby campground frequented by various assemblies. A good portion of February she is occupied with camp work among preteen and teenage girls.

Joel Clark and the Covida assembly

After the graduation program and a celebratory feast in San Clemente, we traveled to Lima to spend our final weekend in Peru with Joel Clark and the saints at the Covida assembly. The Lord's Supper is a privilege and a joyous time in any language, and we enjoyed remembering Christ's work and ongoing promises to us. Additionally, I was able to speak four more times from God's Word—twice in the morning and twice in the evening. The local believers welcomed us and showed nice hospitality by taking us out for the national dish of "Pollo a la brasa"—roasted chicken with French fries, rice, and salad (all of this was washed down with generous amounts of the local soda pop, Inca Cola). It was good to interact with these dear brothers and sisters. Like assemblies anywhere, they face the challenge of reaching the lost around them with the Gospel and the equally challenging work of building up the saints.

Brother Joel was originally commended in 1982 by the assembly at Central Gospel Chapel in Miami, Florida; he was later commended in 1986 by the assembly meeting at Fifth Avenue Chapel in Belmar, New Jersey. We enjoyed hearing about the work he does for the Lord. He has a weekly neighborhood evangelistic home Bible study plus another home study for believers. He is deeply involved in shepherding work among the local saints and frequently helps in Bible teaching in the Covida assembly. He also gives out the evangelistic calendar, *La Buena Semilla* ("The Good Seed"), which has brought many people to Christ in Spanish-speaking countries. I personally saw how effectively and cogently he shared the Gospel with a boy panhandling at a traffic light: in less than two





minutes Joel gave him an excellent little gospel message before the light turned green. He was an invaluable help to us during our visit to Peru, and we are grateful for the kindness that he showed to us.

Prayer points

- More laborers—Peruvian and possibly foreign workers. There are many towns and cities in southern coastal Peru and the mountain areas that need New Testament patterned assemblies.
- Continued growth for the students in the Bible study seminar.
- The ongoing ministries of the San Clemente, Independencia, Covida, Calle del Mar (Ica), and Parcona assemblies.

- The evangelistic and Bible teaching work at Betel Camp.
- That the Holy Spirit would raise up more quality elders with spiritual maturity and zeal for the Lord.
- The Dan Perez family and their pioneer work in Cuzco. ■

Keith Keyser was commended in 1999 by Grace Gospel Chapel, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. Married to Naomi since 2005, they travel among God's people with their four children, sharing the Word in Bible teaching, exhortation, and Gospel preaching. He originally learned Spanish in 1995 while helping Mark and Angie Hartley in pioneer evangelism and assembly planting in northern Spain.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Leah Zardo • Missionary to Niger



The Lord graciously saved me in the midst of a non-Christian family when I was 15 years old in small town Perth, Ontario. At age 18, He opened a door for me to go to South Africa for two weeks. This was the beginning of God revealing and giving me His heart for the African people, a heart of joy and sorrow, a concern for their souls. I ran ahead and started nursing school, but after the first year I spent the summer in a girls' discipleship house in my hometown. Here, as we read through the Bible, I fell in love with His Word and learned to recognize His voice. It was made clear that overseas missions was His plan for me but not through nursing. I did not go back for my second year. God opened the next door to serve Him for one month in a few villages in Senegal, spending time with children and teaching them art. It's the only thing I knew how to do. Here He confirmed my calling to Africa. I returned home and spent the next year and a half working, serving and seeking the Lord. He brought me to Guinea-Bissau to serve at a YWAM base where I helped in a nutrition center and taught a few children art in the afternoon. This was a time of training and I returned home after nine and a half months. Two things were on my heart for this time back in Canada: to

cultivate my gift of art and to learn about gardening/agriculture. During those three years of waiting on Him and serving where I was, I took and gave art lessons, created art and took two courses in tropical agricultural development in Florida. There were opportunities to return to Africa or go somewhere else, but I never sensed God's leading and peace with them. Finally, He brought an opportunity to go to a conference in Niger in February 2014. Through connections made there, I was put in contact with ROCK International and was told they needed an art teacher for their new center. After many confirmations in prayer, daily devotions and the elders of my church, it was clear this was a green light. God has been so faithful to me. He has blessed me with a supportive church family and has carried me through these waiting periods. I am so thankful for this opportunity to join the team in Niger and to serve God as He draws His beloved Nigeriens to Himself.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you."
2 Thessalonians 3:1 ■