

Missions



Chitokoloki "100 Years of God's Faithfulness"

Are Short-term
Missions Worth It?

Tijuana, Mexico
A Forgotten City

Report: 2014 MOP





Thinking It Through

MARK A. SWAIM

Why the Word of God is So Important

It is the foundation (*Joshua 1:8; Nehemiah 9:3; Psalm 119:18*)

At the beginning of the conquest of Canaan, the Lord spoke concerning the Book of the Law and the importance of observing all that the Lord had said (Joshua 1:8). Yet in the days of the kings, the book became lost (2 Kings 22:8). Captivity was the result of forsaking God's Word. At the end of the captivity, in the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, the book of the Law once again became a priority (Ezra 7:10; Nehemiah 8:1-12). Every revival in Scripture, and every true revival in history, has at its roots the returning to the Word of God, the foundation of our faith.

It is to guide our feet (*Psalm 119:105*)

The Lord guides us through His Word and gives light for the steps that need to be taken, even if we don't see the whole path. The children of Israel who left Egypt could have traveled to Canaan in about 11 days. But because they were worldly and fleshly focused, they traveled for 40 years (Proverbs 4:12; Isaiah 58:11; Daniel 2:22).

It is our culture (*Ezekiel 11:12*)

Without God's Word, we would do according to the customs of the nations. Ezekiel prophesied in very dark times. In chapter 10, as Ezekiel is held captive with God's people, he sees a vision of the Lord's glory departing from the Temple in Jerusalem, caused by the great wickedness of God's people who forsook the Lord and turned to idols. If we do not take God's Word seriously we will eventually follow the customs of this world and the advice of unbelievers.

It is to protect us from deceivers (*Isaiah 8:20*)

Today you can hear many who claim that God speaks through dreams, visions, and even directly, or through angels God has sent to guide them. They see no reason to read and meditate on the Scriptures. They speak of their "experiences" and are keenly interested in listening to other's experiences. Yet they will not want to listen if you preach or speak about Scripture. Ignorance of the Word of God opens the door for deception.

It is to be searched diligently (*1 Peter 1:10-11*)

The diligent study of Scripture is the characteristic of those

who are godly. Throughout the world there are those who, like the prophets of old, spend their time not in the pursuit of pleasure or something new, but in the pursuit of God as He has revealed Himself in Scripture.

It is to be something we desire (*Mark 4:18-19*)

Deception and desire are two things that choke the Word of God from influencing our lives. There is the deception that riches will bring peace, security, happiness and success that drives us to be enslaved to our jobs. And the desire for things: relationships, philosophy, fame, entertainment, comfort, and materialism. We are to find God's Word to be a treasure before the deceitfulness of riches and the desire for other things enters in and chokes the Word.

It sanctifies the believer (*Psalm 119:11; John 17:17*)

In John 17, the Lord Jesus prays that those who were given to Him would be sanctified (John 17:9, 11, 24). And the sanctifying agent mentioned here is the Word of God. It acts as a cleansing agent (Psalm 119:11).

It is the servant's strength (*Psalm 119:23*)

In Psalm 119 David directs us to the place of refuge, the Word of God. Each day we are to feed on the Word, put on the armor of God and take up the sword of the Spirit. But most of all, we are to meditate on the Word of God to find Christ, our source of joy and dearest treasure of our heart.

It is necessary to win the battle (*Matthew 13:25*)

In 2 Kings 11:11 the guards stood around the king with weapon in hand. In Nehemiah 4:22 the guards kept watch over the work of rebuilding God's house. Today, we need to guard the faith from false teaching and deceivers (Jude 1:3). As we labor to build God's house, we need to stand guard against those who wish to destroy it. Many of the Lord's people are exhausted from the labor, discouraged from the apathy, distracted by success, and consumed with the world. And while men sleep the enemy comes in and works in the fields. May this not be the characterization of our work. In our service for the Lord, let us remember that power is found in Christ, in His Gospel and in the Word of God. ■

Vol. 43, No. 8. 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.

FRONT COVER: Celebrating at Chitokoloki—Allan Wilks

BACK COVER: Ocean Grove, NJ—Deborah Elmer



Chitokoloki

"100 Years of God's Faithfulness"

BY ALLAN WILKS

In the heart of Africa, Chitokoloki (Chit) mission station is located far from any cities, on the Zambezi river in North-Western Province, Zambia. It was carved out of the bush 100 years ago and can reasonably be said to have had an influence on the subsequent history of Zambia far out of proportion to its size.

To mark Chit's 100th birthday, a celebration was carried out the week of May 12 to 18 under the watchful eye of the multi-talented Chit chief administrator Gordon Hanna, a missionary at the station with his wife Ruth since 1985 (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 6). The tagline for the celebration was "100 Years of God's Faithfulness."

Phil and Marilyn Barnes represented MSC Canada and Ken Switzer and I were privileged to represent CMML at this auspicious event. The final three hours of our journey were in the small four-seater Chit plane. As we lined up to land on the

grass airstrip at the mission station, we could see the plane's tin-roofed open-ended hangar to our left. This was the celebration's designated venue, from which the Chit plane had been banished for the week. The hangar had been extended on both ends with cloth and plastic coverings, and 1,100 chairs were set up inside, culled from all over Chit and from other nearby mission stations. It was beautifully decorated with Zambia's official colors surrounding a makeshift platform constructed on a trailer.

The grounds of the mission station were immaculate for the week's events, with displays erected that celebrated various aspects of the century-old ministry. There was excitement in the air as guests arrived from other parts of Zambia and also from other countries around the world.

The actual celebration was enacted in two parts. On Wednesday morning there was an official ceremony at which

Above: Chitokoloki with celebratory banner.



the guest of honor was the vice president of Zambia. He flew the three hours from Lusaka in his official helicopter with some of his chief ministers of state and military personnel, landing just an hour before the beginning of the ceremony. He was given a brief tour of the mission station and then gave a speech to the crowd of well over 2,000 people gathered to hear him, both inside and outside the hangar. In his speech he praised the mission station and especially the hospital, considered to be one of the finest in Zambia. In what amounted to a logistical masterpiece, lunch was then supplied for all, in four different locations.

The second part of the celebration was a three-day conference that began on Friday evening and used the same venue as Wednesday's ceremony. There was a series of speakers all the way through to noon on Sunday, with English being translated into Lunda or Luvale, the two most common vernacular languages in that region.

Ken Switzer, Phil Barnes and I were honored to be included among the speakers. Among the other speakers were David Croudace (MPH Day 5), missionary to Zambia for more than 40 years, and Kelvin Samwata and Samuel Kapanji, leading brothers from Chingola and Lusaka assemblies. The ministry was varied, challenging and well received.

Some who had come from long distances were housed in the on-campus facilities while those who had traveled on foot from the 30 local assemblies were able to set up tents and cooking fires. There were approximately 500 people at the conference, enjoying the ministry.

As with all Zambian conferences, the talks were punctuated with enthusiastic Zambian choirs. Before the final sessions on Sunday morning, all met in the hangar for the Lord's Supper, with many Zambian brothers participating.

As the sun set Sunday evening, there was a great feeling of contentment among the residents at Chit. They had worked very hard for many weeks to execute this celebration. They felt at the end of it that Christ had received all the glory and that God's century-long faithfulness had been amply proclaimed.

Allan Wilks is CMML's vice president, technology.

From top (and left to right): Group waiting with anticipation for the vice president; Choir singing as Zambia's vice president entered; Three local chiefs in seats of prominence; Eunice Poidevin and Elva Brooks; Chitokoloki grounds; David McAdam, the hospital's chief surgeon; Throngs of people after the ceremony; Vice president (left) being interpreted into Lunda by Bruce Makwato (right).

History of Chitokoloki

Chitokoloki (Chit) was founded in 1914 by three men: George Suckling, T. Lambert Rogers and Fred Arnot. Sadly, Mr. Arnot's poor health soon forced him to return to Johannesburg where he died in 1916, the same year that Mr. Rogers died from a case of blackwater fever. But George Suckling continued on at Chit for the rest of his life, until 1952. A coworker of his, D. Mawhinney, said that "He was a giant in his work for God, often spending 18 hours a day in hard toil, doing at least as much as three men."¹ Mr. Suckling labored in four areas of ministry, which remain the focus of Chit to this day: church growth, medical work, leprosy work and education.

George Suckling started to teach under a tree with illiterate students simply sitting on the ground. Within four years of that modest start there were four other schools started in the region, all supervised by Christian nationals. This work was carried on in the context of evangelism, and many of those early students became Christians. By 1951 there were 41 schools in the ever-increasing neighborhood of Chit, with many of the teachers in those schools being Christians and having been trained at Chit itself. This work was a wonderful opportunity for the spread of the Gospel.

Chit Mission School ended in December 1965 due to a lack of workers, therefore the government took it over in January 1966. However, there is great freedom for the Gospel in Zambia, and Chit workers have been involved in the religious education classes to this day. Keith Bailey (MPH Day 5) serves as the head of the Religious Education Department at the Chit school. In nearby Kabompo, Don Brooks (MPH Day 5) has taught religious education in the high school for nearly 40 years and annually administers to high school seniors the state religious education exam that would be a challenge for many North American Christians. The work of Dorothy Woodside (MPH Day 7) should also be mentioned. Dorothy resides at Chit but tirelessly goes out to many surrounding

villages to teach literacy and the Bible to hundreds of eager learners of many ages.

Medical work has been part of Chit since its very earliest days. By 1929 they were dealing with 30 to 40 outpatients each day, and by 1978 this had risen to 200. There has always been a strong emphasis on primary care. Since 1947 there has almost always been at least one doctor at the hospital, including James Worsfold, Jim Rennie, Ian Burness (now the general director of Echoes of Service), Barbara Oolman and most recently, David McAdam from Northern Ireland. Many others have given years of their lives as nurses, dentists, anesthesiologists, radiologists and more. The medical work is carried out in the context of the Gospel. Each patient hears a clear gospel presentation every day, and many have come to a saving knowledge of Christ through this ministry.

A notable aspect of Chit's medical work is the care for leprosy patients. As early as 1928 these needy people were offered simple shelters, food and clothing. Dr. James Worsfold, who served at Chit for 30 years, starting in 1947, was particularly notable in this ministry, eventually becoming a widely known and sought-after Leprologist. Dr. Worsfold was married to Hilda Seccombe, who ran the hospital for many years. By 1964, the year Zambia gained independence from Britain, there were 400 lepers living in the colony at Chit. This work continues to the present though there is currently a need for a supervisor for the colony. ■



[I am indebted for a number of the facts here to Gordon Hanna, Chitokoloki's administrator, and Alma Turnbull, the author of the new book *Chitokoloki: Celebrating a Century of the Lord's Work in Northwestern Zambia*, available soon through Gospel Folio Press.]

Top row (left to right): A chief, Kenneth Kaunda (president of Zambia), and Dr. James Worsfold; David Mawhinney; Agnes Suckling; George Suckling; Dr. James Worsfold and Beryl Worsfold. **Bottom row (left to right):** George Suckling; David Katota and Vivian Ewart; George Suckling family; Theo Deubler.

¹ Turnbull, Alma. *Chitokoloki: Celebrating a Century of the Lord's Work in Northwestern Zambia*. Port Colborne, Ontario: Gospel Folio Press, 2014.

Short-term Missions Trips

Are They Worth It?

BY SCOTT NORSTROM

While studying Nehemiah 1:1–4, I meditated on the question that Nehemiah asked those who just returned from Jerusalem. Paraphrased, “How are the people doing, and what is the physical condition of Jerusalem?” The answer he heard would change his life. The news caused him to sit, weep, mourn, fast and pray. His initial overwhelming burden was to physically work on the walls of Jerusalem and to see them rebuilt. Really? What is so spiritual about that? But God would open the doors for Nehemiah to work on the physical aspect of the city which would later provide for spiritual impact.

I am convinced that short-term missions trips are a way to labor together with God as we serve our brothers and sisters around the world. Hopefully, our actions speak volumes, and physically helping with practical needs creates an environment for spiritual opportunities. It proved to be the case in Nehemiah’s day.

Send or spend?

Within a week of our short-term missions team returning from Peru, the question came up, why not take the money you would spend on airplane tickets, food and lodging, and send a bigger financial gift to the missionary? Wouldn’t we be better stewards to *send* the money to the missionary, rather than *spend* some of it to get the team on location?

Obviously, giving is critical to the success of missions. Many people never go but give sacrificially. They are instrumental to missions without traveling abroad. Prayer is critical to the success of missions. Many people never physically step foot on foreign soil but pray sacrificially for those on the mission field. The work of the Lord has been advanced by those who pray. Thank the Lord for those who serve missions in these ways. So, are short-term mission trips worth it?



Why send a short-term team?

Realistically, not every missionary is able to host a short-term missions team. Sleeping or cooking facilities may not be available, nor does the missionary feel a team is a good fit for the context in which they serve. However, there are missionaries that are suited to this and look forward to teams coming. Tom and Carol Clark, as well as Mark and Kim DeJager in Peru (both *Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 26), were great hosts and made us feel very welcome. These and other missionaries have hands-on projects that they could use help with as many are involved in schools, camps, church remodels, repairs and additions. They could benefit by a team coming.

“Send or spend?” is a fair question to ask, but teams don’t go uninvited. The missionary would like a team to come and help in the work. In order to do that, some money does go toward sending the team but the experience is well worth it. Money cannot buy the many blessings that God gives to the team members and the missionary.

5 benefits of short-term missions trips

Encouragement, exposure, appreciation, an example to follow, and involvement are all key benefits of short-term missions.

1 Encouragement to the missionary

Your presence can be a great blessing and encouragement. The missionaries expend a lot of time and energy, and sometimes your presence helps “fill their tank” to keep pressing on. Someone has taken the time to visit them and to experience the ministry to which God has called them. You are willing to go and labor with them, to work hard, get dirty, sweaty, and perhaps even get sick from the food or water (it’s nice to

avoid that last one, but not always possible). Yet, you joyfully serve alongside them.

When in Honduras with the Dominguezes (MPH Day 19), the youth group showed their appreciation of us coming by learning the song "Friends Are Friends Forever" by Michael W. Smith. They sang it in English at our going away party. Many of us were in tears. It was an evening that I will never forget. It was a time of great fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



2 Exposure to the work

By physically going and helping, you gain a greater understanding for the missionary's work. From that exposure, there are several additional blessings that will impact your faith, prayer, and current and future ministries.

It strengthens your faith as you hear stories of God's provision and faithfulness. It is always encouraging to see what God is doing around the world. When in Ecuador, mealtime was story time with Lloyd Rogers (MPH Day 25). I thought, he should write a book on God's faithfulness and miracles throughout his years of ministry. I'm sure many missionaries could do the same. He shared highlights, mountaintop experiences, and a few valleys along the way. It was very helpful to

trips and were instrumental in the construction of Strong Tower Christian School and other miscellaneous projects.

Others find that missions work is not for them and realize that they can be more effective for missions at home rather than abroad. When going into the jungles of Ecuador with the Rogers, an excited young man wanted to be the first to fly in. However, after about three days, the excitement was wearing off. He was now asking "How long are we going to be in here?" It was a great learning opportunity for him.

3 Appreciation for the conveniences back home

Some trips may involve more primitive conditions than what we are used to. There is not always easy access to drinking water, public restrooms, hot showers, Internet, television, your own car for traveling, and so on. When I asked Mark DeJager what was the biggest adjustment for him in Peru he said, "That this is the new normal." What seems so different than what we are used to really is quite normal in their new context. Expectation and adjustments are made, and the new normal is accepted.



see how God had worked in their lives.

It allows you to be more specific in your prayers. When you see the work firsthand, your understanding of it becomes much clearer. I often find myself praying for those I have personally met.

Some have gone back and now serve in the spiritual ministry on the mission field. Many who serve today first went to the mission field on an exploratory trip.

Others go back year after year to help with projects. When in Peru, we labored with several people who made multiple

4 The missionary's example to me

Missionaries are involved in and investing in people's lives. They are regularly called upon to teach the Scriptures. So I need to know the Bible. I sometimes hear the expression "What would Jesus do?" which is helpful to consider, but I also catch myself thinking what would a missionary do? They have great focus and don't waste time. There is always something to do for eternity.

Top (L-R): Bible study with a local family; Fellowship at a remembrance meeting.

Bottom (L-R): A finished classroom at Strong Tower Christian School; Strong Tower Christian School; Pulling wires in Strong Tower Christian School.

5 Home church involvement

If your assembly is not consistently involved in supporting a missionary, this is an opportunity to send one or more people from your local church on a short-term trip. It is great to help financially and pray for those who are going. Several of us have been blessed by our local church as they have taken a special offering and prayed for us while away. When we return, we are asked to give a report on a Sunday morning to let the saints know how it went. It has been a wonderful experience for all and a good reminder that God so loves the world.

Is short-term missions for you?

Although short-term missions trips are not for everyone, I have witnessed firsthand the blessings that flow from them. Over the years I have appreciated the missionaries who have opened their homes where I have traveled with a team. To see the hand of God at work in another part of the world has left a lasting impact. Perhaps you and your assembly would pray about participating in a future short-term trip. ■



L-R: Transportation into the jungle; School in the Ecuadorian jungle.

Scott Nordstrom serves on the board of TeamWorkers Abroad and has led multiple short-term mission trips to Central and South America. He is in fellowship at Northwest Bible Fellowship, Omaha, Nebraska, where he served as an elder for nearly 25 years.

Readers have asked...

What about Missionary Kids' Education Expenses?

BY TOM TURNER

That's a very important question and one that concerns every missionary family with young children. For Missionary Kids (MKs), attending school in a foreign country can be a cultural challenge and expensive. Home schooling is an option that many parents choose for various reasons, but that can also be expensive. That's why CMML and MSC Canada have established funds to help missionary parents in this important area.

The education assistance program serves children in grade school through high school. Each year missionary families serving overseas are asked to complete a questionnaire describing their annual educational expenses for their children. Eligible expenses include tuition, room and board, uniforms, books,



transportation, home-school related courses and materials, postage, and most other directly related expenses. The educational needs of each family vary widely and are carefully and prayerfully reviewed based on the information received and the amount of available funds. Then, individual distributions are made to each family to help with a portion of their children's education.

We are thankful that the Lord burdens some believers to have a part in this ministry to help with MKs' schooling. If you feel led, gifts suggested for the missionary kids' education fund may be sent to CMML or MSC Canada. But most of all, please pray for these dear missionary kids and their parents as they persevere with their education while in a foreign land. ■

Home with the Lord

Spencer James Dibble

Missionary to Nigeria • September 24, 1925–April 21, 2014



Born to missionary parents in Akwacha, Nigeria, Dad was two years old when his mother died in childbirth. His father returned to the U.S. and remarried. Returning to Nigeria, most of Dad's childhood was spent in the bush in Nigeria. He was saved and baptized at an early age. His education was done by correspondence courses and he always regretted not completing high school.

At age 17, Dad joined the U.S. Coast Guard. With two brothers and his dad in combat forces, he was assured he would not be involved in active duty. However, after basic training, he found himself gun captain on a ship transporting wounded and dead soldiers from Iwo Jima to a hospital ship. He was shot at this time and received a Purple Heart award. Often the only Christian on board, it was during this time he knew the Lord was calling him to be a missionary. He worried that it was human logic that made him want to return to Nigeria and tried to focus on other countries.

After World War II he went to Emmaus Bible School in Toronto for three years. His summers were spent working at camps and other outreaches. While working in Quebec he met a camp nurse, Phyllis Statton. She joined Dad at Emmaus for his last year, and as their friendship grew they knew that they were called to serve together in Nigeria.

They were married in 1950 and early in 1955, with three young children, they sailed for Nigeria. Because Dad grew up there and knew the language and culture, he often said that Mum was the true missionary; he was merely "going home."

Dad tirelessly preached the Gospel and taught new believers. Most weekends were spent in surrounding villages witnessing and encouraging. In the evenings he showed gospel film strips that attracted whole villages. He also taught in the local language at the mission-station Bible school.

Dad was burdened to provide sound Bible study helps for the Christians. His father had translated the Bible into the Igala language, and now Dad worked on getting Emmaus courses and other books into three local languages.

Dad also felt that Sunday school and camp work were effective ways to spread the Gospel. He wrote books to help Sunday school teachers and loosely translated a camp manual to fit

the Nigerian culture. Today, various camps take place in many locations; all are planned and supported by Nigerian assemblies. Also, there are weeklong seminars held at Ika, one for Sunday school teachers and one for camp workers.

In the early days, Dad also helped with difficult deliveries, built our house and at least two other missionary houses, hunted meat, repaired vehicles and drove the ambulance.

Although he was very busy, Dad knew that he was called as a husband and father. He refused to send us to boarding school, feeling strongly that it was his privilege and responsibility to raise us. He was fascinated by the solar system and often showed us different constellations, making sure we were very aware that God was the One who created them. We had family devotions twice a day and our parents had their own after we were in bed. Dad gave many conference messages on the value of husbands and wives being one in all areas (a concept foreign in Nigeria before the Gospel came), and we saw this truth lived out at home.

Life was not always easy. Only the Lord knows the extent of Dad's hurt as he buried his stillborn fifth child, or the pain of watching the assemblies split apart, or the hurt when he was falsely accused of wrongdoing. In his later years, he battled cancerous skin lesions, but his troubles made Dad more dependent on the Lord.

When our mother died after 61 years of marriage, Dad started to slow down. Trekking overnight in the villages was exhausting, and he gradually gave up preaching though he faithfully held a Bible study in his home. He was thrilled to see godly men raised up to teach at the Bible school and camps. Until his last days, he actively assisted men to translate Scripture and study helps into four languages.

Many have asked, "What will happen to the Lord's work there?" Because it is the Lord's work, we know it will carry on. The Lord has burdened many Nigerian believers to be involved with the various ministries. Tom and Lois Dibble Wheeler still work on the station and plan to use Dad's house as a guest house. Please continue to pray for the Lord's work in Nigeria.

SUSAN DIBBLE CROWE

TIJUANA

The Forgotten City

BY STEPHEN ROUGHTON



As I grew up in the woods of Greensboro, North Carolina, the rest of the world seemed far away. Little did I know there was a forgotten foreign city bordering the nation that I love. With a population of more than three million and infamous for its cartels and corruption, one would think it strange that I say Tijuana has become a forgotten city.

The city

Tijuana is a metropolitan city with a conglomeration of people from all around the United Mexican States. Most of its citizens over the age of 30 are originally from other Mexican states and came here with family or to look for better work.



Most of these sojourners will work for little more than \$100 per week in one of Tijuana's many factories: Sony, Ford, Dell, Microsoft, Kodak, and so on. Due to this, many speak about returning to their land of origin and some abruptly act on this longing. Despite

this, most of the younger generation continue their education in one of the 17 colleges and universities, which allows many of them to get better jobs and a financially brighter future.

One question I often get asked is if I feel safe here or if it is a violent place. I always reply that it is a city, and every city can be dangerous. The fact is that Tijuana is safer than some U.S. cities, and it receives thousands of visitors every year. Tijuana can be dangerous, but not too dangerous. There are places that you shouldn't walk alone at night in any metropolitan area, and the same is true in Tijuana.

The people

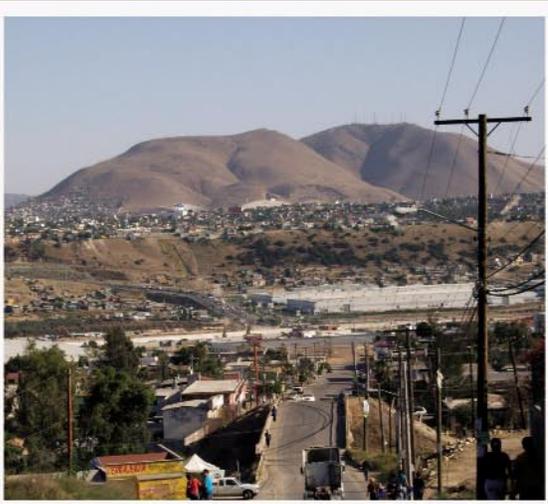
By birth most Mexicans consider themselves to be Catholic, but few actually practice their religion. However, since Tijuana is a small "melting pot" of many different people, it contains many of the world's religions and cults. Though there is a wealth of "enlightenment," most are spiritually bankrupt and living in darkness.

Another important thing to understand about Tijuana is that it is a border town, which means that it is heavily influenced by American technologies, ideas, and business. It is common to see a young person posting something on Facebook while walking down the street. Though it would seem that bordering one of the most developed countries on earth would have a positive effect, yet regrettably, Tijuana tends to adopt the negative aspects of her next-door neighbor. The youth have short attention spans and are "tech-oholics." Along with this, many churches have been infiltrated by the philosophies and psychological tendencies of many of the mega-churches. A leading thought is that the bigger a church is the better, and thus they should be mimicked.

A new assembly work

I began this article by stating that Tijuana is a forgotten city, but after presenting it as the gateway to Mexico, how can I say that it is forgotten? It has not been forgotten by the news media or politicians; it has been forgotten by the assemblies. Tijuana has more than three million individuals, most of whom do not have access to a church





based on New Testament principles. Though there are no assemblies here, they are all around. Two hours south in Ensenada there are four assemblies. To the west there is another in Rosarito and two more in Mexicali.

The seventh largest city in Mexico, Tijuana's population is three times that of Ensenada, Rosarito, and Mexicali put together. Tijuana has the potential to influence individuals all over Mexico and even the United States. Although all of this is true, sadly there has been little vision to start an assembly work in this key area.

God, however, has not forgotten this place and has laid it on the hearts of a few brethren, including myself, who want to see a church planted here that is based on first-century church principles. I have served in Tijuana for five years, working almost exclusively with children. However, the burden which has been on my heart since I arrived has been growing. During my time in Mexico I've worked with Ken Small (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 20) who also shares my vision. Recently, I was directed to a brother in Ensenada who would also like to plant an assembly in Tijuana. However, by law a new work can only be started if a church that is already registered with the Mexican government sponsors it. We do not have this.

Proverbs 16:9 states, "Man plans his ways, but the Lord directs his steps." So, though there is a plan, it will be the Lord who directs. The plan is for me to move farther south to Ensenada in order to get better acquainted with the brethren and to "fan the flame." As the Lord directs, a team will be put together and by the summer of 2016 the first efforts to plant an assembly based on New Testament teachings will be made.

Get involved

My desire is to make you, the reader, not only aware of Tijuana's needs but also what can be done about it. How can you get involved? There are three steps to be involved in missions.

1. **Pray.** Would God have you pray about this new work on a

regular basis? If so, add Tijuana to your prayer list and pray that God would do a mighty work and that He would pave the way to plant an assembly there.

2. **Give.** I never ask anyone for funds. I believe in what the great missionary Hudson Taylor said: "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." However, giving is the next step. If the Lord stirs your heart about a certain work and you are in constant prayer over it, then perhaps God wants you to find out how you can get more personally involved with the work.

3. **Go.** Perhaps the Lord would have you go as a full-time missionary or for a short period of time in order to help with the work. As you pray, perhaps the Lord will put on your heart to serve with us as we endeavor to further God's kingdom in this forgotten city, Tijuana. ■



Top (L-R): Two cute faces on Mexico's Independence Day; The vastness of Tijuana; Teaching about missions around the VBS "camp fire." **Page 10 (L-R):** A typical Mexican market; Child hands out chorus books before Sunday worship. **Above (from top):** School supplies from my sending church; Sunday worship at a church plant.



Stephen Roughton was commended in 2009 by the assembly in Greensboro, North Carolina.