

August 2016

Missions

Entrepierres Caring for Christian Workers

God's Grace in the
DR Congo

**Emmaus
Correspondence
School**

Report:
MOP 2016



Thinking It Through

KEITH R. KEYSER

Great Commission Equations

After six years of foreign service, the 28-year-old British missionary J. Hudson Taylor invited his sister and brother-in-law to join him in gospel work. His letter to them passionately expressed his feelings for the field where God called him to labor: “We have only the Lord to look to for means, for health, for encouragement—and we need no other. He gives us all, and He best knows what we need.... Had I a thousand pounds China should have it. Had I a thousand lives China should claim every one. No, not China, but Christ! Can we do too much for Him? Can we do enough for such a Savior?”¹ His sincerity is evidenced by the approximate 45 more years of work that he invested in spreading the Gospel in his adopted country. In living this way, Taylor demonstrated the curious calculations—one might call them “Great Commission Equations”—of the Lord Jesus’s parting commission to His Church.²

Gospel subtraction

What could be so important that a man or woman would subtract their homeland, family, and culture to brave numerous hardships including physical danger from disease or hostile people, material privation, and sometimes years of thankless toil in obscurity? Many missionaries have spent their lives laboring in spreading the Good News without seeing much tangible fruit. Sometimes a lifetime results in a handful of conversions or one single church established.³ Others experience great suffering—even premature deaths—in the cause of Christ. What can justify such subtractions? The motivation of Taylor’s missionary antecedent, Paul, provides the answer: the love of Christ is the only sufficient cause of such sacrifices. As 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 says: “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again.” Because of His death and resurrection and the life that it brings to us, believers are raised to walk in newness of life, serving Him

with all of our being.⁴ This made Paul willing to sacrificially pour out his life in labor for God’s people.⁵

Gospel addition and multiplication

A 17th century gospel preacher once declared, “Love cares not what it is, nor what it doth, so it may but advance the Lord Jesus; it makes the soul willing to be a footstool for Christ, to be anything, to be nothing, that Christ may be all in all.”⁶ By the Lord’s power, a life given in missionary service adds to the Church those who are being saved; one life thus sacrificed may result in thousands being brought to, or built up in, Christ.⁷ The Lord Himself demonstrated this principle of evangelistic multiplication by becoming the grain of wheat that died and fell into the ground that a great harvest might come.⁸ Churches in Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, South and North America all evidence the tremendous fruit that Jesus’s work and His subsequent usage of His followers have produced. Truly this is incomparable multiplication: one devoted life produces billions of new creatures for God’s glory.⁹

Arriving at the correct answer

Summing up this love-inspired sacrifice of missionary labor, Taylor beautifully concluded his letter by quoting Watts’ classic hymn, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”:

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Shall have my life, my soul, my all.*¹⁰

God’s love manifested in Christ should prompt us to greater service and selfless sacrifice for the Lord’s glory. Everything subtracted from our lives for His glory will be exponentially recompensed at Christ’s judgment seat.¹¹ Like the old adage puts it:

*Only one life, ’twill soon be past,
Only what’s done for Christ will last.*¹² ■

Keith R. Keyser is a full-time worker based in Pennsylvania.

¹ Dr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor, *Hudson Taylor in Early Years: The Growth of a Soul*. (Philadelphia: China Inland Mission, 1912), 503. ² Matthew 28:18–20. ³ In reality these things are exceedingly precious to God, e.g. Luke 15:7. ⁴ Romans 6:1–4; Romans 12:1–2. ⁵ Philippians 2:17. ⁶ Thomas Brooks, “A Serious Discourse, Touching A Well-Grounded Assurance,” *Works* 2:481. ⁷ Acts 2:47. ⁸ John 12:24–25. ⁹ Matthew 16:16–18; 2 Corinthians 5:17. ¹⁰ Taylor, 503. The wording exactly quotes Taylor and differs slightly from the traditional lyrics. ¹¹ Matthew 19:29–30; 1 Corinthians 3:14. ¹² C. T. Studd, “Only One Life, ’Twill Soon be Past.”



Entrepierres

Caring for Christian Workers in the French-speaking World

BY JONATHAN WARD

We believe the most important thing in this life is making Christ known in every way possible and manifesting His love to a broken world. Each of us can help fulfill this mandate in a variety of ways, each according to his or her gifting, position and calling.

What's your part?

All of us can pray. Many of us can give. Some of us can go. What is the part that each one will play? What counts is that we are faithful stewards and sharers of what God has enabled each of us to do as we cooperate with Him.

Our part, for the past 17 years, has been to support national leaders and cross-cultural workers serving throughout the French-speaking world, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Congo, Mali and so on.

Supporting leaders in hard places

Our world needs courageous visionary servant leaders, willing to be shaped and used by God, aware of their strengths and limitations, and able to stay focused despite

Above: Quaint little alleys at Entrepierres with guest homes on either side.



setbacks. Many feel isolated as they serve in difficult places, and isolation can bring discouragement and doubt.

A leader is only as good as the support he gets. God's front-line servants need support in a variety of areas such as relational skills, management skills, work-life balance, transitions, adjustment, parenting skills, cross-cultural skills, team dynamics, leadership, conflict management, stress management, spiritual issues, emotional issues, and traumatic events.

A haven for the weary

Every year Entrepierres welcomes over 300 people who minister on the frontline. For some, this place has made the difference between giving up and carrying on.

Nestled in a small valley between two mountains, this place has a stillness and beauty that brings healing to the battle weary. God speaks, comforts and guides as people rest, pray and interact with our team, either over a cup of coffee or during structured times of debriefing and counseling.



As guests relish the beautiful quiet surroundings, replenishment comes and joy returns. They stay in the six fully equipped self-catering homes that are available year-round. Our facilities also include a library, game room, outdoor swimming pool, and a garden area with swings, picnic tables and barbecue. Guests usually stay for an average of one to two weeks and leave a donation at the end of their stay.

Caring for the wounded

Perhaps we should dispel the myth that Christian leaders, and missionaries in particular, are somehow superhuman. Like anyone, they need support, encouragement, guidance, comfort and care to be effective in their work.

Sometimes we are asked about the difficulties facing Christian workers. While multiple and varied, they bear recurring themes such as loss, drivenness, disillusionment, opposition and frailty. The following examples, shared with permission but with names altered, illustrate some of the issues.

Loss and grief

Experiencing major loss is difficult, whether it's a friendship, a job or one's health. Experiencing multiple losses in rapid succession can drive one's soul underground.

Marcel had been a missionary in Africa for 15 years, leading a Bible translation project. However, over a period of three years, he lost his brother to cancer and his nephew to a drug overdose. Then he lost two of his most valuable trusted African coworkers. One died in a traffic accident and the other in an armed robbery. These losses incurred a third: the translation project ground to a halt. To cap it all, his sending church split and he received notice he could no longer be supported. His closest helpers gone, his future uncertain, his energy sapped by grief, he came to us for help.

What issues did we explore with Marcel? Grief, trauma, plans thrown into chaos, fear of the future, fear of further losses, doubt, and exhaustion.

Driven to exhaustion

We can be driven by many things: the need to feel significant, to avoid failure, or to prove our worth. When we try to meet those needs in ways of our own making, we flirt with danger.

Josette served with a Christian ministry organizing sports camps for youth. An athlete herself, she lived her life as if it were a competition. Win or lose. Strive to be the best. Never say

Bottom left: The smallest guest home has one bedroom and the largest has four; Our six guest homes are comfortable and well equipped.



"I can't." Push yourself to the limit and then a bit more.

Josette's ministry was driven by performance, and she put pressure on those around her. But her body could not keep up with the pace. Depleted and burned out, suffering from dizziness and insomnia, she came to us for help.

How did we help Josette? We helped her explore her obsession with success to the point of idolatry, her need to be needed and approved by others, her perfectionism and its effect on others, and her "savior complex" evidenced by her tendency to rush into helping others with little awareness of her own increasing exhaustion.

Dealing with disillusionment

Occasionally, missionary work can have a painful ending when there is betrayal, corruption, broken promises and hypocrisy. That's not what missionaries expect when they follow God's call and make the challenging transition to the field. Pierre and Michelle's experience was one of breached expectations and huge disappointment.

As a young couple, they went to Africa to serve with a Christian ministry to homeless children. Before going, they had met with the founder—a persuasive, independent, entrepreneurial type who painted a picture of an exciting opportunity to make a difference.

Once there, Pierre and Michelle quickly discovered how dictatorial, manipulative, controlling and corrupt he was. Money donated for the children was directed elsewhere, and Pierre and Michelle were pressured into a variety of deceitful practices that made them feel conflicted, trapped and depressed. A year later they resigned and returned to Europe, bruised and confused.

What did we explore with Pierre and Michelle as we debriefed? Their sense of eroded trust, their sadness, their fear of being unable to accurately discern God's leading henceforth, and their need to process what had happened and move toward an attitude of forgiveness for the person who abused their trust.

Embracing frailty

Philippe was involved in planting a church in a major city in France. He served effectively and competently, using his talents and seeing the church grow. Things were going well. But then depression hit, like an illness coming out of nowhere. His family had a history of endogenous depression.

Philippe's health deteriorated rapidly and required medical attention. When his strength returned, his team leader asked if we would welcome him. Over a two-week stay, we helped him assess what would be a realistic degree of involvement in ministry, while helping him come to terms with his health limitations.

Cultivating resilience

However painful or tragic, every adversity, every thorn in the flesh, has the potential to be redeemed and used by God. Marcel, Josette, Pierre, Michelle and Philippe were all impacted, negatively and positively, by their experiences.

Times of weakness and difficulty push us to reach out for God's grace and accept it as being sufficient while also leading us to accept the fragile earthen vessels that we are, for it is as earthen vessels, and not despite, that God chooses to use us.

An amazing history

Almost 50 years ago, despite difficult circumstances and meager resources, an energetic 29-year-old ex-RAF pilot and his health-stricken wife bravely followed God's lead into a unique and crazy adventure. Against all expectations, yet driven by their passion to make a difference for God, they tackled the enormous challenge of transforming 9,000 square feet of rubble into an oasis of rest and retreat for God's servants. The location was a small abandoned medieval French village in the foothills of the Alps, in Upper Provence—a place nobody had occupied since the 1930s.

By increments of pain and sweat, through miracles and setbacks, and with the help of many volunteers, this young mis-

Top (L-R): A quiet restful place, ideally suited to the work we do; The 17th-century church adds character to the village but is almost never used by the locals; Tending the flowerbeds; Our climate and vegetation are Mediterranean, including oak trees, olive trees, lavender and more; Sisteron, our local town.



sionary couple persevered in their efforts to bring old stones back to life so that living stones might be nurtured, cared for and blessed. Pictures past and present can be viewed at [Facebook.com/AssociationPierresVivantes](https://www.facebook.com/AssociationPierresVivantes).

Now 50 years later, Entrepierres is a testament to the endurance and faith of Jonathan's parents, Dudley and Jill Ward. Their limited resources did not extinguish their vision and determination, and they managed, by the grace of God, to produce a legacy that continues to touch lives to this day.

A fantastic team

Our team is made up of full-time workers and part-time volunteer helpers.

- Daniel and Dora, who joined us last September, manage the maintenance of the buildings. Originally from Belgium, they are using their retirement to serve God with us.
- Frederic and Johanna also joined us in September. They are French and help with counseling. Prior to joining us they were part of a church-planting team in another region of France.
- Eric, an American whose parents are missionaries in France, came to us last November to help with groundskeeping, cleaning and maintenance.
- Jonathan and Rachel have served here since 1999. They direct the Entrepierres ministry, dealing with bookings, counseling, bookkeeping and hospitality.

Our part-time volunteers:

- Antoine is a local chiropractor. If guests need chiropractic care, Antoine helps free of charge, fitting them into his schedule at his practice.
- Bernard, a retired electrician, helps one day per week with renovations and upgrading.
- Daniel, who is the chairman of our board, practices psychiatry and helps relieve the counseling load as well as provides us with supervision.

Partners needed

God has been faithful and good over the years. To Him be the glory for a place like Entrepierres!

Please pray for us and for this important work. Caring for God's laborers and helping them manage the pressures of serving Him in difficult places can be a challenge.

To be effective, this ministry needs partners. It is not self-sustaining. If you would like to help, gifts can be sent to CMML or MSC Canada and designated for Pierres Vivantes ("Living Stones"), the non-profit organization that owns and oversees this work. ■



Jonathan and Rachel Ward were commended in 1999 by Hilltop Chapel, Toronto.



Top (L-R): All the buildings have been renovated using local stone; We occasionally get a little snow. **Above:** Our team and our board members.



BY BOB & GLENDA WATT

Bob and Glenda were originally commended to the Lord's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC, then Zaire) from 1971 to 1996. They were evacuated in 1991 due to political unrest, but Bob was able to make frequent visits for five more years. Bob then worked for a number of years in the pharmaceutical industry until an early retirement. After an exploratory trip to the DRC in May 2014, they were commended by Malvern Bible Chapel for periodic visits back to that land. There have been three trips since then with the purpose to encourage the assemblies that had been without a missionary presence for a number of years and to provide reinforcement and assistance to the medical work, particularly the pharmacy work that was completely destroyed in 2002. This brief update focuses on Bob's most recent trip (March – April 2016) where abundant evidence of God's grace was found along the way, just as Ruth discovered the handfuls of grain left on purpose as she gleaned in the field of her redeemer (Ruth 2:16). Here are some of the tokens of grace Bob discovered.

Warm hospitality

In each place visited (Bunia, Tchomia, Goma, and Kigali), God provided a special host family to bring mutual encouragement. Mandro and Kiiza Butso showed gracious hospitality in Bunia. Bob's former student, Mandro is the Coordinator of Medical Services for the assemblies (CE-39 is the assembly designation by the government) and was Pearl Winterburn's "right-hand man" for many years. (Pearl served in DRC for many years and passed away in 2014.) His life experience of nearly 40 years is an asset for the entire medical work, which includes four hospitals and 30 health centers. In Goma, a national

Christian couple and entrepreneurs known for more than 30 years, Victor and Brigitte Ngezayo, provided lovely accommodations. Two new couples and their families also became special friends on this trip. Etienne and Amoti Nzekako were our hosts for the Annual CE-39 General Assembly Meetings held at Tchomia. In an unplanned visit to Kigali, Rwanda, Bob and Pascal Gisenya, a colleague in the Nyankunde pharmacy work, were generously hosted by Pascal's family and friends.



L-R: Mandro and Kiiza Butso, hosts in Bunia; Victor and Brigitte Ngezayo, hosts in Goma.

Rich fellowship

What a special joy to share Easter with so many old and new friends in the Bunia assembly. The fellowship there and with many other believers from the eight other assemblies in Bunia (a city of about a million people, and now capital of the new Ituri Region), was truly an encouragement. Being part of the four-day general assembly meetings at Tchomia was also a highlight. There are now 254 assemblies, with about 50,000 in fellowship from 14 geographical districts. A total of 139 delegates attended to hear ministry from the Word and encouraging reports and to learn of the challenges that many face. The

meetings provided an opportunity to see many from assemblies difficult to visit otherwise.

Dr. Bungishabaku Katho (legal head of the CE-39 assemblies) gave an update on the ambitious project to construct a conference center in Bunia on land owned by the assemblies. All the assemblies will give to help with this project. If any North American assemblies also wish to participate, this would be a real encouragement to our brothers and sisters in the DRC. In Swahili this is called "Harambee" ("Working together in unity"). The meetings ended with ministry on the Lord's Day, followed by the Lord's Supper. It was a joyous time!

The following Sunday was spent fellowshiping with the saints at Centrale-Soleniama. It was a privilege to minister the Word and to meet with the elders and medical workers afterward. The roof recently blew off their health center, so it was good to encourage them in that rebuilding effort. A new chapel is under construction that will double their capacity to about 500. Like so many other assemblies, they are growing rapidly! Bob flew to Goma the next day with Jacques Akenda, the leading brother from the main assembly there. It was good to fellowship once again with that lively, relatively new assembly and to share some spiritual food gleaned from the Word.



From top and L-R: Health Center and medical team, Centrale-Soleniama; Bob preaching at the General Assembly Conference, Tchomia; Jacques and Chantal Akenda, main assembly, Goma; New assembly building with elders and medical workers, Centrale-Soleniama.

God's protection

About 30 minutes into the MAF flight from Bunia to Goma, the pilot sensed that the plane was not performing normally. After consulting with other pilots, he turned around and went to Nyankunde where it was discovered that a clogged fuel injector caused one cylinder to have problems. God graciously supplied just the right pilots and mechanics to maintain that MAF plane for 30-plus years! It was good to be "home" again in Nyankunde and see the revitalization since the terrible destruction in September 2002. The rest of the trip was uneventful, as were the many thousands of miles of commercial flights.



Arial view of Nyankunde.

Old and new friends

What a blessing to work with church leaders (often children or grandchildren of former leaders), such as Dr. Bungishabaku Katho, colleagues from the Nyankunde pharmacy work (notably Paul Kabanga Kapuya and Pascal Gisenya) and students we helped train who now carry on in responsible positions of leadership (particularly Ely Bwimba). A new graduate pharmacist, Simon Ngbape has a servant's heart and desires to be a help in future church projects. The great team of health-care workers and supervisors serving with Mandro Butso in Bunia brought great joy. The work is in capable hands, spiritually and professionally. Now they need the tools to work with! One of these tools is medicine. What a joy to meet so many who have been helped and given new life by the triple nutritional therapy (TNT) for AIDS patients, including a new friend, 10-year old Rachel whose physical life was restored.



Dr. Bungishabaku Katho at Tchomia.



Clockwise from top left: Bob with Paul Kabanga Kapuya and Mandro Butso, Bunia; New pharmacist Simon Ngbape, Goma; New friend Rachel, helped medically in Bunia; Pascal Gisenya and Ely Bwimba, Goma.

Farms and factories

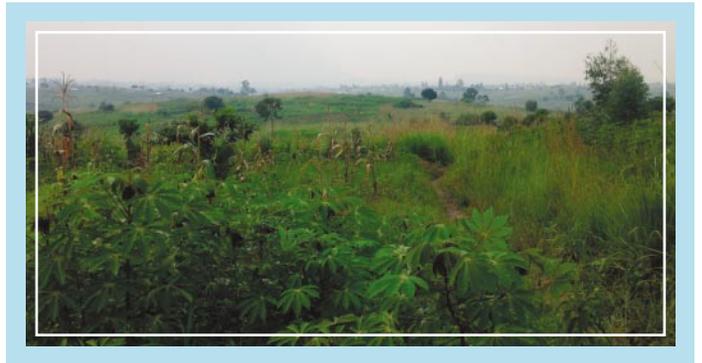
Plans are going ahead slowly in the Goma area (Rangira) to build a factory for the production of modern natural plant medicines (such as those used for the TNT products, but others as well) and another facility to bottle purified drinking water. While awaiting funding, fields are being planted with medicinal plants and also fruits for healthy juice drinks. If the factory is successful, a logical next step would be to make sterile IV solutions in plastic pouches or bottles.



New passion fruit field, Nyanza, Rwanda.

Pharmaceutical center

Previous trips revealed that the access to and provision of affordable quality medicines are in a deplorable state. A five-year plan being finalized now addresses that need, including the importation of certain medicines. However, a place to store and distribute them is required since the destruction of the Nyankunde Central Pharmacy. The church already owns land that is sufficient for the proposed conference center. It would also be an ideal place to build a pharmacy distribution center. A second project is the undeveloped land given by the Baptist church in the Goma area for the new SAV (French acronym for "Alternative Medicines for Life") pharmaceutical factory described previously. We are praying that funds would be provided for these projects as another token of His grace.



Field that will be used for pharmaceutical work, CE-39 Mbio, Bunia.

Future plans

Lord willing, we plan to return to the DRC at the end of this summer, prior to national elections and possible political unrest. Various rebel groups continue to profit from the leadership vacuum contributing to insecurity. Please pray for peace and stability to carry out the Lord's work unhindered. We are challenged by those who continue to endure much hardship. Please continue to lift up our dear and resilient Congolese brothers and sisters who faithfully serve the Lord in the midst of uncertainty.

In the meantime, we try to support and encourage those who already give local resources, sow fields with medicinal herbs and other nutritional foods, and move ahead with new initiatives. These activities serve as a means to promote integrated medical care (for the body, soul, and spirit), to support the long-standing CE-39 medical work based in Bunia. Although programs and plans are necessary, they ultimately serve as reminders to trust God to do what only He can do. And He is the One who provides "handfuls on purpose" for encouragement as we see evidences of His grace at work! ■

Bob and Glenda Watt were commended in 2014 by Malvern Bible Chapel, Malvern, Pennsylvania.



Emmaus Correspondence School

3,800 Bible Courses Started Every Day

BY JIM FLEMING

For 73 years, in more than 100 countries, Emmaus Correspondence School courses have achieved the Brethren distinctive of following the Lord's example in teaching "the things concerning Himself" and "explaining the Scriptures." (Luke 24:27, 32) ECS courses have become one of our most commonly used study tools and are used by many CMMML and MSC Canada workers throughout the world.

I love to hear anecdotes such as these from all over the world:

"Emmaus courses were the basis for my early Christian discipleship."

"I studied Emmaus courses 25 years ago and I still have them."

"I would not be an elder in my assembly today if I had not received the solid foundation that Emmaus gave me."

"Do you still publish *Preach the Word*? It was my only homiletics teacher."

What are Emmaus courses?

The courses are 12-lesson study guides that get people into the Bible for themselves. There are evangelism courses, discipleship series, Bible books and deeper doctrine studies. Each lesson comes with an exam that motivates a student to complete the course, have his exam corrected, and allows questions to be asked and answered. In short, Emmaus is a Bible school that takes place at home or in the local assembly.

Why Emmaus courses?

They are proven Bible study tools, developed over 73 years. We facilitate the autonomous use of these courses (available in most major languages) to fit the local culture. A completed course is a small commentary useful for future Bible study. The courses are content rich and doctrinally reliable. A triple PhD theologian in a New Delhi assembly told me, "Your course

Basic Bible Doctrines gives 90 percent of believers 90 percent of what they need to know about those major doctrines!" A small team with minimal resources can develop a ministry that grows far beyond their individual capability.

How is Emmaus administrated?

It started in the 1940s (and through the 1960s) as a missionary-based ministry and still is in many countries. The current trend is transitioning ECS to, or opening new countries with, capable national leadership. I spend a lot of my mission traveling to train, develop, encourage and visit these growing Bible schools on five continents.

A hugely successful model, developed by German brethren (ZAM—Central African Mission), bases the missionary at "home" as he develops and oversees multiple "Emmaus Countries," visiting twice a year to further equip the national leadership and their growing teams. This method brilliantly unites the resources of the West with the manpower of the national. As my father and veteran missionary, Ken Fleming, says, "Dollar for dollar, I know of no other ministry that has a more effective, far-reaching and spiritual return on your investment."

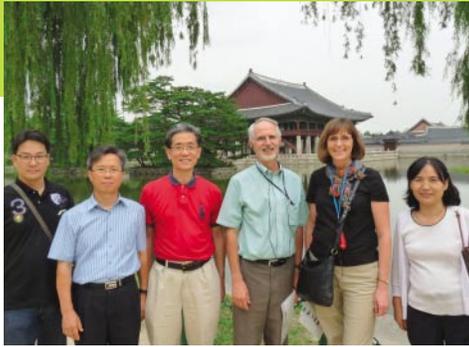
What is thrilling in 2016?

1. Our Arabic field is growing. They have a courageous vision to start Emmaus schools in neighboring, conflict-filled countries.

2. The refugee reality in Europe and the Middle East may be the greatest opportunity ever to reach Muslims. Emmaus workers are currently strategizing.

3. A vision for growth in India with translations, new languages, and new regions is at an all-time high. It is funded and led by nationals.

4. North Africa is in our sights. We are praying for the Lord to open the door and give us workers.

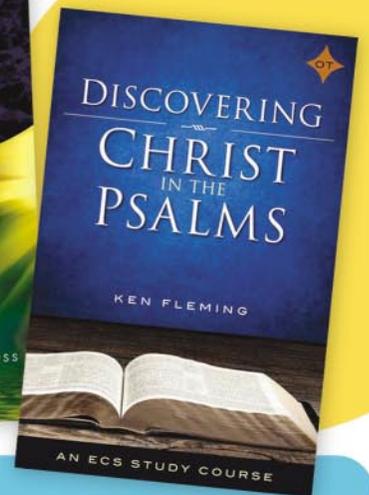
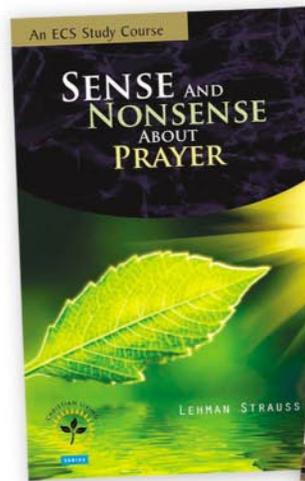


5. Expatriate schools are opening in many countries. For example, ECS Sweden: Eritreans in Sweden are studying Emmaus courses in the Tigrinya language. Eritrea is closed to the Gospel but not when they are in Sweden!

I am available to visit your assembly and recount countless thrilling stories in person. Contact me at ecsfleming@gmail.com.



Jim and Sharon Fleming were commended in 1984 and served assemblies in Peru and Colombia until 2008. Now under "Other Overseas Service" (MPH Day 30), they serve the ECS ministry worldwide and continue an international Bible teaching and conference ministry.



ECS Facts

Here are some interesting facts about ECS. Learn more at: www.ECSMinistries.org.

- 160 courses started per hour
- Nearly 1.4 million courses started per year
- 85+ languages
- At least 103 countries
- Arabic courses studied in 50+ countries via the internet
- ECS started in 1942 in Canada
- #1 distribution outside the USA is the DR Congo
- #2 is Ethiopia and growing: +200,000/year
- 55% of all courses are used in Africa
- 25% of all courses are used in USA prisons
- 75% of the exams are corrected
- Conversion testimonies number in the hundreds yearly
- Students are planting church meetings in new areas
- Courses used in 14 languages in India
- All English courses are available for online study
- 102 English courses
- A.P. Gibbs' famous *Preach the Word* is revamped and even better
- ECS publishes other books too

Bonus fun fact: The great-granddaughter of the first missionary to translate ECS in 1949, Cyril Brooks in the Philippines, is married to our son: Abby Hardisty to Daniel Fleming.