

Missions

Portugal

A Haven for
Spiritual Growth

France

A Lifelong Passion
for Evangelism

Uruguay

A Family's Generational
Ministry



THINKING IT THROUGH

BY T. J. MARINELLO

“My Times Are in Your Hand”

I trust in You, O Lord; I say, “You are my God.” My times are in Your hand. (Psalm 31:14–15)

One of the last lessons my late mother imparted to me shortly before going home to be with the Lord was formed as a question. Barring a miracle, her prognosis was death within weeks. Her question was, “I wonder what God is trying to teach me in this?” To the very end, she looked for a lesson in her circumstances as a means to conform herself more to the Lord Jesus’s image.

For most readers and the writer, the circumstances surrounding the writing of this devotional are different than my mother’s. We are challenged by living life amid various stages of COVID-19 lockdowns, or perhaps, we recently finished the lockdowns and wonder what lies ahead in the post-lockdown world. Nonetheless, the question is germane for each of us: I wonder what God is trying to teach me in this?

David also found himself in trying, uncertain circumstances. His challenge was not dealing with a pandemic’s economic wreckage and medical consequences but, rather, surviving an enemy in pursuit—likely King Saul (1 Samuel 23:24–26).¹ As David writes of his circumstances and pours out his heart before the Lord, he presents two lessons in the middle of Psalm 31.

First, David records that, amid his trial and as he contemplated his future, he trusted the Lord: “I trust in You, O Lord.” (Psalm 31:14) Humanly speaking, his situation was bleak. A powerful ancient Near Eastern king and his armies were pursuing David. Each time David thought he found refuge, he learned that Saul and his armies were coming to capture him. Still, as David rehearsed his dark circumstances, he looked beyond them and stated his unequivocal confidence in the Lord.

Second, David records that he knew his times—his length of days or ongoing circumstances—were in God’s care: “My times are in Your hand.” (Psalm 31:15) Nothing was happening or would happen to him that was not in accordance with

the real power, the ultimate authority, of the Lord God. David would not suffer loss, come to harm, or depart the earth one day sooner than that which the Lord purposed. This truth does not mean David did not cry out to God for deliverance, but it means his cries rose from a foundation of knowing his circumstances and challenges were bound up in God’s unimpeachable purposes.

How could he express such a singular trust and rest in the Lord’s purposes for him? Why was he not reduced to cowering before his pursuers or lashing out at the injustice of his circumstances? Why did he not live in fear of what may come? The answer is found in the “hinge” between the two lessons: “You are my God.” (Psalm 31:14) In this simple yet profound statement, David reveals that he based his unshakeable trust on an intimate relationship with the Lord. His attitude was an outgrowth of a considered closeness with God. David does not express an unfocused, untested hope in an unknown, unknowable deity. He fixes his eyes above and writes, “You are my God.”

Thus, David answers the question of an elderly saint soon to be with her Savior, even as he answers the same question for us today: “I wonder what God is trying to teach me in this?” We cannot know what will come in the months ahead; we do not know if time will bring prosperity or want, health or sickness, joy or sorrow. However, we know that we serve and have a relationship with the One about Whom David wrote. We can say with full confidence, “You are my God.” Presently, as we live in uncertainty and contemplate a vague and unknown future, our perspective, like David’s, should be “I trust in You, O Lord,” and thus rest. Why? Because, “My times are in Your hand.” ■

We can say with full confidence, “You are my God.”

Dr. Marinello serves in the Netherlands.

¹ Allen P. Ross, *A Commentary on the Psalms*. Vol. 1. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2011, 684–85.

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COVER PHOTO: Atlantic coast of Portugal—Nelly Cerqueira



Lark Height in Portugal

A Haven for
Biblical Teaching and
Spiritual Renewal

BY PETER CERQUEIRA

For a great and effective door has opened to me. (1 Corinthians 16:9)

Lark Height, or Alto da Cotovia, is an alluring property in Portugal. This serene property spans only four-and-a-quarter acres, but fields and forests surround it, enveloping it in an expanse of bucolic wilderness. Visible from Lark Height, grassy hills in the east and north meet the deep blue sky, and a few hamlets and villages adorn the horizon in picturesque simplicity. Three miles to the west, the farmed, fertile land drops down tall, rocky precipices to the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean, where seagulls circle overhead with their familiar, shrill cry.

On Lark Height's property, a small, two-story Mediterranean-style cottage sits near the crest of a flattop hill. Fruit trees of many varieties surround the cottage and provide mouthwatering fruit from March to October. A country road runs alongside the property, connecting the nearby beaches to the deep interior. Lark Height is perfectly situated: it is one hour north of Lisbon, Portugal's largest city, and two hours south of Porto, the second-largest city. Lark Height is our home. By God's grace, this beautiful home was paid for from the start and has been a blessing to us over the years.

From top: The Cerqueiras live near several beaches, some more rocky than others; Lark Height is located just three miles from the Atlantic Coast.



New directions

In the past, the cottage was merely a dormitory from which I based my ministry. I traveled to and from Lark Height as I preached, engaged in open-air evangelistic campaigns, taught Bible studies, started Christian schools, organized conferences, helped home-schooling parents, visited and encouraged fellow workers, participated in camp ministry, interpreted for foreign-language preachers, and spoke at conferences.

I always enjoyed returning home to the joyful, melodious welcome of birds in the tranquil trees as the sun's rays shot through the branches. Whenever I returned at night, tired from a day of ministry and a long drive, I would slowly step out of the car to crickets' operatic chirps and a gloriously starlit sky and a hazy Milky Way. It is a pleasure few people in urban and suburban neighborhoods can enjoy.

Often, I considered using Lark Height for ministry, for such a lovely location could bless others, I thought. After about 20 years, the Lord permitted me to use Lark Height as a place of ministry. For the past several years, Nelly and I have prepared



burn to impact young adults who serve or want to serve in ministry. As a result, we plan to hold modest retreats at Lark Height, invitation-only weekend conferences, and occasional Saturday fellowship times. At these events, we will welcome small groups of couples and families. Sometimes, we will invite one couple or family to be our guests for a week or weekend

so we can hone in on their needs. These activities will focus on prayer, encouragement, strengthening our faithfulness to the Lord, and digging deeper into God's Word.

for specific ministries that we believe the Lord is leading us to start at Lark Height. While occasionally we serve God's people in distant assemblies and share the Gospel in the nearby communities, our work focuses on preparing for future ministries, and it is taking a long time.

A place of respite

In contrast to our lone country cottage, most Portuguese live either in densely populated cities, thronging towns, or crowded villages. Even farmers live clustered in villages and ride their tractors to their farmland daily. Portuguese people are community-oriented, believing in the safety of numbers.

Lark Height provides a break from the noise and space for restful activities and spiritual edification. To the Portuguese believers who visit us, Lark Height is a balm for their tired, over-stressed lives. The Lord has guided our vision for Lark Height—even through zoning laws. When we learned that certain laws prohibit us from constructing a large building on our property, the Lord encouraged us to serve small groups.

In Portugal, many believers have strayed from assembly gathering principles and some evangelical beliefs. Our hearts

A warm welcome

Having grown up with 12 siblings, Nelly loves to fill our home with guests. She enjoys cooking and baking for large crowds. Hospitality is one of her gifts! We have hosted a few small-group events at Lark Height, and Nelly prepared the meals and organized fun activities for our guests. Our home is also a guest home for passing ministry workers and foreign preachers.

We befriended many unbelievers in our region, and we thank the Lord for giving us opportunities to share the Gospel with them. We pray they will trust Christ soon. Then, we hope to start an assembly and meet in our home until we outgrow it.

A ministry base

Some of the ministries God is leading us to require an office. We desire to reach believers with sound doctrine and unbelievers with the Gospel—to impact the entire nation and other Portuguese-speaking nations. To do so, we need a functional office, and our cottage is too small to accommodate this need. While we aren't allowed to build an office on our property, we discovered that the government permits anything with wheels.

Above (clockwise from top left): The Cerqueiras enjoy fresh, seasonal fruit from their orchard; The cottage represents the traditional, Mediterranean-style home of ceramic and cement; A local man graciously restocks the Cerqueiras' wood supply; During a Christmas gathering at Lark Height, Peter sings carols with several unbelievers and Australian missionaries Janet Petersen (right) and her husband, Gavin (not pictured).

With an unexpected gift, we purchased an old semitrailer. We plan to repair it and remodel it as an office. From this office, we will produce Christian literature, record videos and post them on YouTube, and create evangelistic mailings.

We would like to start a Christian home-school co-op. We have many books, teaching materials, and supplies, which are ideal for a home-school co-op. We acquired the educational materials when the Christian school that I started years ago closed. The vacant school building, in which we kept the supplies, sold, and the former owners asked us to remove our materials before the new owners moved in. Now, we store the books, teaching materials, school supplies, and equipment in our semitrailer, which makes repairing it impossible.

After months of prayer, we believe the answer is to buy another used semitrailer. We will remodel this second semitrailer into a loan library and school-material stockroom for believers who home-school.

The present work

A reasonably sized property requires many tools, a small tractor, and other equipment—all of which, by God's grace, we have acquired over the years. A shelter for safely storing these items and a place to work are equally as important. Zoning laws allow sheds for agricultural and landscaping purposes on our property. A few years ago, I began building a shed with my dad, who was visiting. After completing the shed, I discovered it was too small, so I use it as my workshop.

Last year, we stepped out in faith and hired a bricklayer to expand the tiny well-pump house on our property into a shed. We are fond of this man and his wife, and we yearn for their salvation, especially since they are older and the wife has health problems.

The property needs maintenance, and a man, whom we have befriended, often volunteers to help us. He is a diligent and skilled worker. He and his girlfriend are receptive to the Gospel, and Nelly has good conversations about salvation with the woman. Other local unbelievers help us with preparations, and we have shared the Gospel with most of them. Even in the seemingly

interminable process of preparing a future ministry, the Lord opens doors for present ministry.

Prayers

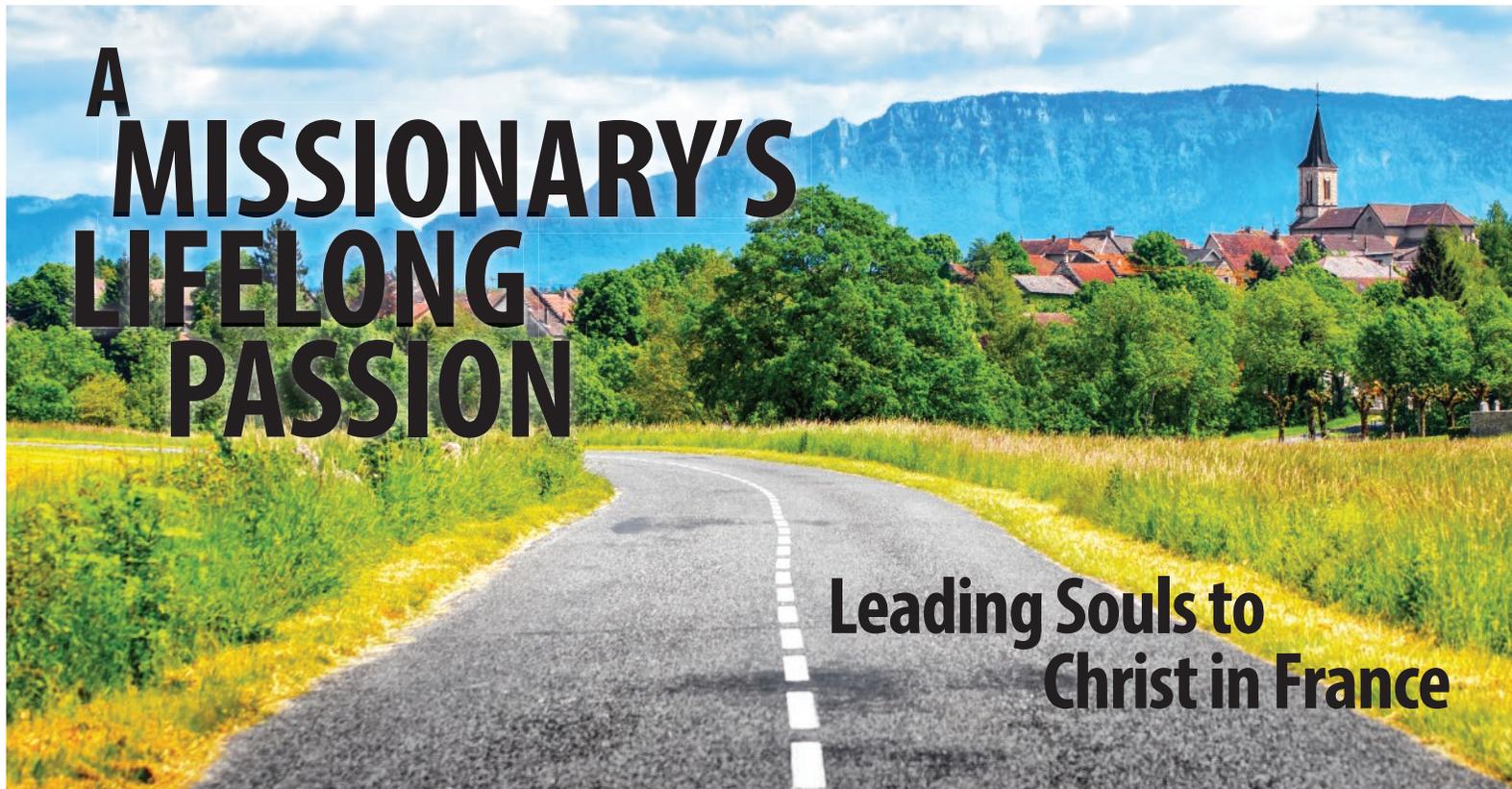
At this time of year, yellow daisies dot the property, and exquisite birds, returning to northern Europe from Africa, stop to renew their strength. We pray that Lark Height will become a place of nourishment, rest, and rejuvenation for God's servants, allowing them to reach new heights with a fresh song. We pray that God will use this insignificant hilltop as a lighthouse shining truth across the nation—and beyond—for His glory. ■



Peter and Nelly Cerqueira are commended from Christian Brethren of Pawtucket in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, and Bethel-Park Bible Chapel in Brantford, Ontario.

Below: (top) The Cerqueiras entertain guests, including ministry workers and their families; **(bottom, L-R)** The Cerqueiras picnic with Peter's parents and friends, who help with maintenance projects; The Cerqueiras' friend, who helps them with maintenance, holds Daisy; The Cerqueiras hope to turn their semitrailer into a ministry office and video-production studio.





A MISSIONARY'S LIFELONG PASSION

Leading Souls to Christ in France

BY PAUL HOWLAND

When I was nine years old, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ heard my prayer for salvation from the penalty and power of sin, and when I was 13 years old, He heard another prayer: "Lord, what do You want me to do?"¹ He answered me as I read "Preach the Word" and "not where Christ was named."²

France has a population of 68 million, and 40 percent declare themselves atheists. Between traditional Catholicism and rising Islam, less than one percent of the population attends an evangelical church, according to a report from the National Council of French Evangelicals. When my wife, Faith, and I moved to France, the percent was half that.

After training in architecture and earning a bachelor's degree in Bible, I found a job in Paris, and in 1973, we relocated to France. Roxborough Gospel Chapel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, commended us, and we served the Lord at the Gobelins assembly. Over the years, Christ saved many people and started two assemblies. In 2012, Faith went home to heaven. My ministry has changed, and I am no longer involved in pioneer work.

Ministry in France

Every weekend, I join with an assembly to teach and practice witnessing in a French city. Usually, on Friday evening, we show a Christian film about soul-winning to motivate the believers. Saturday, we share the Gospel in the streets, in the market, door to door, or with unsaved friends. Sunday, after the Breaking of Bread, we study *The Methods of the Master*. Jesus said, "Follow

Me, and I will make you fishers of men," so we focus on traditional methods that work.³

"Easy believism" is popular, but "even the demons believe—and tremble."⁴ Not everyone who says he or she believes is saved. Christ said, "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish."⁵ Three times, Scripture says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."⁶ Faith is confidence in Christ to ask Him to do a miracle. All we can do is lead someone to Christ.⁷ We can't save anyone nor give them assurance of their salvation; only the Holy Spirit can do that work.⁸ We don't add them



From left: Paul and Faith pioneered the now thriving assembly in Moulins, France; Paul's homemade assembly in north Marseille for evangelistic weekends; Paul spends time at the assembly in La Seyne-

©iStockPhoto.com/Gregory_DUBUS



to the church; only Christ can.⁹ Our goal is more than Christian education and church attendance; it is salvation. When witnessing, we prefer to use terms like “sowing the seed,” “making disciples,” “revival,” and “rediscovering the church.” Christ has saved many in my region. I rejoice to hear that God’s people “walk in truth.”¹⁰ My home is a place where God speaks to hearts, even through my apple pies. Send me an email at pass4missions@outlook.com to request the latest news.

Ministry in other countries

At least once per year, the Lord enables me to minister in other countries. Last year, I spent 10 days in Ireland working with the assembly that David and Beth Wilson (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 12) serve in. Two years ago, I returned to Canada for ministry. Before that, I visited Portugal and the region where Peter and Nelly Cerqueira (MPH Day 13) serve. Every year since 2015, the Lord has enabled me to travel across America in my 1932 Dodge for assemblies’ midweek and weekend meetings. I call the ministry Across America with Christ.

The format is the same as it is in France: weekends of teaching and evangelism. I have observed that Christians around the world find evangelism challenging. The Bible says, “[Be] always prepared to [give] an answer [to] everyone that asks you to give an account of the hope that [is] in you.”¹¹ Most of us enjoy the privilege of attending school to prepare for life. It requires time and effort. Typically, those who are prepared succeed. The same applies to leading others to Christ. All the answers are in the Bible. Our hope is not theology but Christ in us.¹²

While witnessing, I like to illustrate the message with fresh stories. Starting with a personal story—“You can’t imagine what

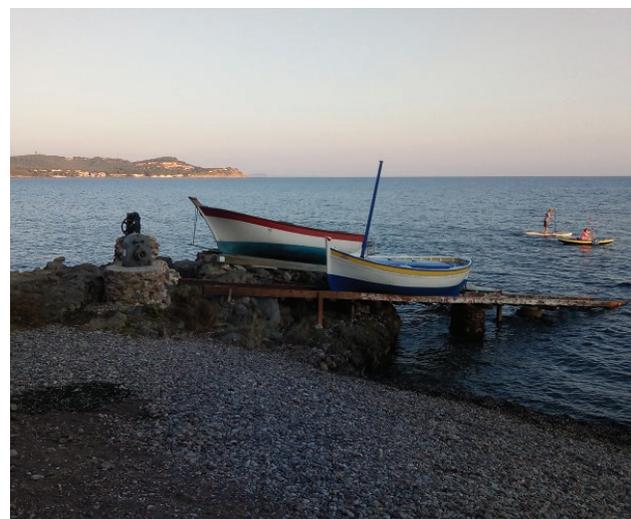
happened to me today”—gets people’s attention. Everyone you meet needs salvation. If you relax and simply talk about Jesus, you will either meet a fellow Christian or encourage someone to consider Christ, potentially leading to his or her salvation. It’s not burdensome or difficult. You don’t need an antique car; you just need prepared questions like “What’s your passion in life?” After listening, you can tell them about your life’s passion. I invite myself into people’s lives; it’s easy to make friendships in one minute. Then, I ask, “What’s God doing in your life?” A smile, a friendly comment, and laughter open hearts to questions about salvation, especially during the COVID-19 crisis. If you want some laughs, visit my website ACACHrist.wordpress.com.

Discipleship

The Great Commission’s final step is making disciples. We can use our five fingers to remember Christ’s plan. Your thumb is big and reminds you to talk about what Christ did for you, which stirs the soil in people’s hearts. “You shall be witnesses to Me.”¹³ The index finger reminds you to tell others what God said to you, for faith comes by hearing God’s words. “The seed is the Word of God.”¹⁴ The middle finger reminds you to ask questions, to “fish” for open hearts. Often, this point is our weakest. But the Gospels contain 304 questions! “I will make you become fishers of men.”¹⁵ The ring finger reminds you that “salvation is of the Lord.”¹⁶ Jesus prayed all night after He led people to the question of salvation. Should we do less? He forced no one into salvation, nor can we. He saves those who say yes to His call, and we can intercede for them. Your little finger reminds you to “go therefore and make disciples.”¹⁷ This command is our part of the work. Christ saves, but we make disciples. How? It’s more than teaching doctrines;



Apple pies with fleur-de-lis designs help him bridge cultures; Paul frequently partners with the sur-Mer on the stunning Mediterranean Sea.





From top (L-R): Paul uses Christian films to encourage believers to share the Gospel; On his trip across the US, Paul visits the believers at Immanuel Chapel in Arizona's Hopi reservation; Paul studies the Bible with a group of men in Phoenix, Arizona; Some young members of South Plains Bible Chapel in Lubbock, Texas, enjoy Paul's 1932 Dodge; Paul's Dodge is a valuable tool in his Across America with Christ ministry.



it's "teaching them to observe all things" that Christ commanded.¹⁸ Teaching an attitude of obedience is more important than Christian education, so careful reading of the Bible is essential.

I am working on a project using e-Sword, the popular Bible software. The software is free and available in 29 languages. E-Sword has more than 500 Bible versions and more than 8,000 books. For years, I have formatted Bible books for compatibility with e-Sword; they are complete with interactive Bible reference links that work with the version you have open. My latest project is William MacDonald's Bible commentary in French. I hold the copyright for it in a free, electronic format. Please pray for this project as I work toward its completion.

Retirement

Many years ago, John Jeffers, CMML's treasurer at the time, took me outside of the CMML office to tell me about retirement. He pointed to some tombstones and said, "That's it!" Missionary T. Ernest Wilson told me the same thing. So, now that I am 70 years old, what's my retirement plan?

Following a major operation for cancer last year and a minor intestinal operation this year, I told my daughter that I'll do what I do as long as I can. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 lockdown enables me to work on several French and English websites that contain hundreds of my PowerPoint messages, Bible study questions, and a series of Bible surveys. You can access these resources at AzBible.yolasite.com, AzBible.wordpress.com, and Mt4v19.wordpress.com.

How can you help?

How can you pray and participate? Pray that more people in France, and the other countries the Lord leads me to, will trust Him. Pray that our ministry weekends will produce serious disciples. Join me as I travel around France, like two couples did last summer and others have in the past. And if you have the time and skills to help with my e-Sword project, I have a list of books to format, starting with the French translation of William MacDonald's *Believer's Bible Commentary*. ■

Paul Howland is commended from
Buttonwoods Bible Chapel in
Warwick, Rhode Island.



¹ Acts 9:6. ² 2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 15:20. ³ Matthew 4:19. ⁴ James 2:19. ⁵ Luke 13:3. ⁶ Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13. ⁷ John 1:42, 45-49; 4:29; Mark 10:13. ⁸ Jonah 2:9; Romans 8:16. ⁹ Acts 2:47. ¹⁰ 3 John 1:4. ¹¹ 1 Peter 3:15 (DARBY). ¹² Colossians 1:27. ¹³ Acts 1:8. ¹⁴ Luke 8:11. ¹⁵ Mark 1:17. ¹⁶ Jonah 2:9. ¹⁷ Matthew 28:19. ¹⁸ Matthew 28:20.



From Generation to Generation

A FAMILY SERVES THE LORD IN URUGUAY

BY KEN & EUNICE RUSSELL

At 68,037 square miles, Uruguay is the second-smallest country in South America, sharing borders with Brazil to the north and Argentina to the south and the west. The Río de la Plata separates Uruguay from Argentina and gives the country 280 miles of sandy, freshwater beaches. On the eastern coast, the Atlantic Ocean adds another 137 miles of saltwater beaches with many tourist resorts. Inland, the country has low hills, numerous rivers, and excellent pastureland. Foreign-owned paper mills invest in large tree plantations and are among the country's main exporters.

Of Uruguay's 3.4 million people, 88 percent are of Spanish and Italian descent, and the remaining population comprises people of largely African and indigenous descent. The official language is Spanish. The people enjoy religious freedom, and 47 percent of the population identifies as Roman Catholic, most nominally. Of the population, only five percent are evangelical Christians. It is estimated that 20 percent of the population is involved in spiritualism or the occult. Others are atheist, agnostic, or secularist and, encouraged by the separation of church and state in the early 1900s, some seek to remove mention of God from schools and curriculums. Many teachers openly ridicule Christian students who defend their faith.

The past decade saw considerable social change on issues like abortion on demand, same-sex marriage, gender reassignment at public cost, and marijuana consumption. Children are taught nontraditional views concerning the family. Violence and crime are prevalent, although officials try to minimize this reality.

Uruguay's assembly origins

In 1882, assembly testimony began in Uruguay with Henry Ewen (UK), who was also instrumental in initiating the work in Argentina that year. Others from the UK and New Zealand continued the work. Assemblies were established in Montevideo, the capital, and the interior. Later, American and Canadian missions workers arrived, focusing their efforts on cities where assemblies were not yet established. These overseas ties left physical reminders. New Zealand assemblies funded two of the original assembly properties in Montevideo and then donated them to the sprouting Uruguayan work. Many of the original buildings and benches are still used. The first gospel campaign tent came from Ireland, and it survived until a strong storm tore the roof apart. Since then, it has been replaced twice. North American assemblies funded other works in the interior and, similarly, passed properties over to national assembly associations in Uruguay.

The growing church

Today, the work is vigorous, with about 32 assemblies, and essentially indigenous. A national association of elders, called CAMU, meets every month and organizes joint events and administers the distribution of funds to national workers. Tied to CAMU are committees for women's, youth, and camp activities and a Bible institute. Children's ministry plays an important part in expanding the work. In many assemblies, teachers receive Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) training, and some of

From left: Ken's grandparents James and Grace Russell were early missionaries in Argentina; In 1968, Lionel and Irene Russell and four of their children began serving in Uruguay; The Russells rejoice that their children and grandchildren serve the Lord.

the CEF instructors and board members in Uruguay are from the assemblies.

In the past 15 to 20 years, the assemblies have developed new programs, such as Bible camps, and the youth committee organizes national youth rallies, evangelistic events, and prayer meetings. Hundreds of children and teens benefit from the camps. The annual three-day rally brings more than 350 youth together. About half of those who attend Easter and missions conferences are young people.

The assemblies have a truck and a bus, which are equipped for mobile evangelism. They haul a tent, made and financed locally, with seating capacity for 350 people. Each year, five weeks are dedicated to evangelizing five cities. The locations rotate every three years. In February 2020, 750 children visited the tent over four weeks. Many of them made professions. Typically, adults respond less, yet many attended and committed, or re-committed, their lives to God. Throughout the year, the vehicles are used for rural evangelism, weekend events for small churches, and medical clinics and relief efforts after natural disasters. This work provides excellent training for Christians, enabling them to share their faith with others, which is a first-time experience for many.

For decades, the Uruguayan assemblies used Emmaus Bible courses and materials from Source of Light and Ediciones CreCIMIENTO Cristiano for discipleship and group studies. Many young people expressed the desire for formal, advanced Bible study. In 2004, the assemblies started a weekly three-hour night class, with the curriculum spread over three years, and named it Berea Bible Institute (BBI). BBI had about 20 students until, in 2017, it began filming its classes and uploading the videos to an online platform, allowing students in the Uruguayan interior to participate. That year, the number of students jumped to 70, with 50 participating online. In 2020, 120 students registered; all of them participate online due to COVID-19. In 2019, BBI started a one-year intern program, called Intern Berea Bible Institute, which served six students, and in 2020, the number of students increased to eight.

Through the Holy Spirit's working, the past couple of years brought foreign missions to the forefront in the Uruguayan assemblies. Currently, one couple works in Germany; one woman served in Turkey for years, although she is home now; and one couple serves in Panama. Two couples, the daughters and sons-in-law of Rob and Cecilia Russell (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 24), trained in Brazil to work among tribal people. The Lord is working in the hearts of several others who express a desire to serve.

The Russells' call to Uruguay

In 1968, Lionel and Irene Russell and four of their children arrived in Uruguay. Lionel and Irene were born in Argentina to missionary families from Scotland, the US, and New Zealand. After 20 years in Canada, where my parents began raising their six children, they received God's call to the mission field, with a burden to return to Argentina. Their hearts were stirred after hearing a report on Uruguay from US missionaries Tom and Elsa Sands. Soon after, Tom passed away, and Elsa sent Dad and Mom a letter asking if they would consider continuing the work in an assembly the Sands started in Mercedes, Uruguay.

My parents responded to God's call, leaving their two older children, Arthur and Hazel, in Canada and traveling with their four younger children. I (Ken) was 15 years old, Rob was 13, and Phyllis and Philip were 8. The assembly grew steadily, especially among children and young people. Dad started daily radio programs, which still air on several commercial stations. In 1975, he purchased a small farm to use for camp work. Of the six children, Rob and I sensed God's call to serve as missionaries, and we attended a Bible school in Villa María, Argentina, as did Cecilia, Rob's wife.

In 1972, I returned to Canada and married Eunice. The Lord confirmed that our destination was Uruguay, and two years later, we returned there with commendation from our assembly in Toronto. In 1976, after working with my parents for two years, we moved to an area without an assembly in an 80-mile radius. The Lord blessed the work, and three assemblies started—one in Rosario, where we live, and two in nearby cities—with leadership developing in each. A fourth work is underway in another city. Currently, the ministry involves Bible courses, home groups, visitation, and a weekly evangelistic article in local newspapers along with regular meetings in the four assemblies.

My brother Robert married Cecilia, from the Mercedes assembly. After Bible school in Argentina, they moved to Canada for about three years, and in 1978, they returned to Mercedes. In 1981, they were commended as missionaries. Rob and Cecilia lived on a campground and developed it, adding dormitories, a new lodge, and a swimming pool. Recently, they transferred this work to a younger couple so that they can dedicate more time to other ministries.

In 1980, Dad and Mom moved to Dolores, 25 miles from Mercedes, due to positive responses from several radio contacts in that city. With help from believers in Mercedes, Bible studies and children's activities led to the formation of a new church, and they purchased a disused chapel on the city's outskirts. In

1997, Dad and Mom returned to Ontario. After years of fruitful service, they went home to be with the Lord. Today, the work in Dolores continues through the leadership of people who were saved in the ministry's early stages.

Answered prayers

Eunice and I are thankful that our children are engaged in the Lord's work. Our oldest son, Andrew, and his wife, Leticia, are commended national workers. They started a ministry in Maldonado and, over 10 years, saw it grow into an independent assembly. Then, they moved to Montevideo to help assemblies

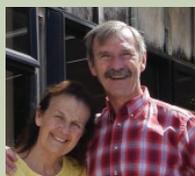
We praise God for His hand upon our family and the way in which He has used us in His service from generation to generation.

there and in Carmelo. Our youngest son, Mark, and his wife, Silvia, live in Rosario, where they run an institute for English-language learners. The institute grew from 15

students in 1998 to more than 150 today. They have opportunities to share the Gospel, and several people have been saved.

Robert and Cecilia have four children. Their two daughters and sons-in-law, Delia and Alejandro López and Natalia and Hugo Burgos, with three children in each family, ministered in the Mercedes assembly. In 2016, the Lord called the two families to serve among unreached tribes; they trained at the Ethnos360 institute in Brazil. The pandemic has delayed Hugo and Natalia's ministry assignment. After their theological training, Alejandro and Delia returned to Uruguay to lead the Intern Bera Bible Institute.

We praise God for His hand upon our family and the way in which He has used us in His service from generation to generation. Please pray for the many Uruguayan families around the country who serve the Lord as He builds His church. ■



Ken and Eunice Russell are commended from Rexdale Gospel Hall in Toronto, Ontario.

Adapted from *Echoes International Mission Magazine*, April 2020. Used with permission.



From top: The Uruguayan assemblies use a bus for mobile evangelism; The mobile evangelism efforts reach hundreds of children and adults each year; In the gospel tent, children enjoy a special program.