

August 2011

# CHRISTIAN *Missions* IN MANY LANDS INC.



Serving a  
**"God of the Impossible"**  
in Romania

**A Missionary's Goal:**  
Creating an Indigenous Ministry

**A Dream Realized**  
in Argentina

**An Adventure**  
with God in Africa

**MOP 2011**  
Meet the Participants





# Thinking It Through

DAVID DUNLAP

## Intrepid Christianity

All seasoned servants of God have known something of enduring hardship. Our minds turn to the prophets Jeremiah, Elijah, Isaiah, John on the Isle of Patmos and the innumerable servants of God who have suffered profoundly for Christ's sake. There is nothing like this kind of experience with God to radically transform our lives forever. Those who have suffered deeply know well the frailty of the flesh, the faithfulness of Christ and the need of dependence on Him. Suffering reproach for Christ is a holy fire whose flames burn away the dross of prayerlessness, spiritual indifference and a compassionless Christianity.

Suffering is also an indispensable part of a Christian soldier's armor, fitting him for spiritual warfare. The apostle Peter writes, "*Forasmuch, then, as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind...*" (1 Peter 4:1). A "mind to suffer" is the piece of armor which will protect us against the adversary when he attacks us at our weakest point. When Christians who enter the heat of battle unprepared, and experience a season of suffering, they are often greatly surprised at the hardship, and the devil gains the advantage.

Others, who endure affliction for Christ's sake, do so with the understanding of its preciousness and eternal spiritual value. Those who are armed with a mind to suffer will go on steadfastly for the Lord, despite intense hardship and adversity. Such Christians realize that scholarly acclaim, prominent position and wealth all pale in contrast with the Lord's commendation, "*Well done My good and faithful servant.*"

William Kelly understood this truth well. He was recognized as an outstanding Greek scholar and a learned Hebraist. On one occasion, a distinguished professor in Dublin urging Kelly to consider a religious professorship at one of the leading universities, proposed, "*Why don't you settle here in Dublin, you could earn a great deal of money, and you could make a name for yourself in the world?*" Kelly tersely replied, "*For which world? —would I have a name...in the present one...or in the world to come?*"

God's choicest servants have been those who have meant

business for Him; they did not hesitate to deny self and give up name, position and financial gain for His sake and glory. C. H. Spurgeon wrote to his son, "*It would not please me if God meant you to be a missionary, and you were to die a millionaire. I should not like it, were you fitted to be a missionary, that you should drivel down to be a king. What are all the kings and all the nobles when put together, compared with the dignity of winning souls for Christ...*" Those who have had the greatest impact on the world "below" were those intimately concerned about the world "above." The apostle Paul wrote, "*I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things...*" (Philippians 3:8).

We may endure hardship for Christ because of our earnest convictions concerning New Testament church truth. There will be some who will misconstrue our passionate love for Christ's church and our separation from all that dishonors His Name, and will assail us for being narrow-minded and unloving. There will be others who may misunderstand our sincere desire to gather unto the Lord Jesus Christ alone in simplicity, and thereby belittle our gatherings as those that are out of step with the current trends. Others will observe the sisters' covering of their heads in submission to the headship of Christ and harshly label their devotion as legalism.

However, the Scriptures counsel us that "*If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you*" (1 Peter 4:14). This suffering for Christ conforms us to His image. This conforming work in our lives means that His convictions will become our convictions; those things which break His heart, will break our hearts; His priorities will be our priorities; and as He has suffered, we will also have a mind to likewise suffer for His sake. Amy Carmichael, a missionary to India, expressed it this way: "From subtle love of softening things, from easy choices, weakenings; not thus are spirits fortified, not this way went the Crucified. From all that dims Thy Calvary, O' Lamb of God, deliver me." ❧

Vol. 40, 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: Camp Group in Romania - George Murray Back Cover: ©iStockPhoto.com/comptine



by George Murray

**"H**ello Emilia, Dr. Coriu asked me to visit you." Emilia was a 37-year-old mother of two whom I'd met at the local hospital's Intensive Care Unit. "He told me you'd come," she said. "What can you do for me?" What could be done for a woman dying of breast cancer? There was no hope! But there is a message of hope that transcends this life, for those who find it. "My prayer for you Emilia, is for you to know, beyond any doubt, that Jesus Christ is alive and He loves you. Everything He did on the cross was for you personally." *"I'd give anything in the world to know that,"* she exclaimed!

By God's grace, Emilia came to know this truth and three days later she was with the Lord, but her sobering response reminds me what a precious gift the assurance of God's love is. Unfortunately many people live and die without ever having heard this good news. In our little world in Romania, Dobrogea is one such place. The people, though locked into religious traditions, die without the hope found in Christ.

We've been reaching out—together with the young people from the assembly—to the southern corner of this isolated and multicultural region since 1996. Our week-long evangelistic trips would start with a one mile ferry ride over the Danube River (Europe's second largest river) and after a 10-15 mile drive we'd set up camp on the shore. Each morning, after study and prayer, we'd journey to one of the 18 villages to give out literature and share the Word of God. We'd usually draw large crowds, but



## *Serving a "God of the Impossible" in Romania*

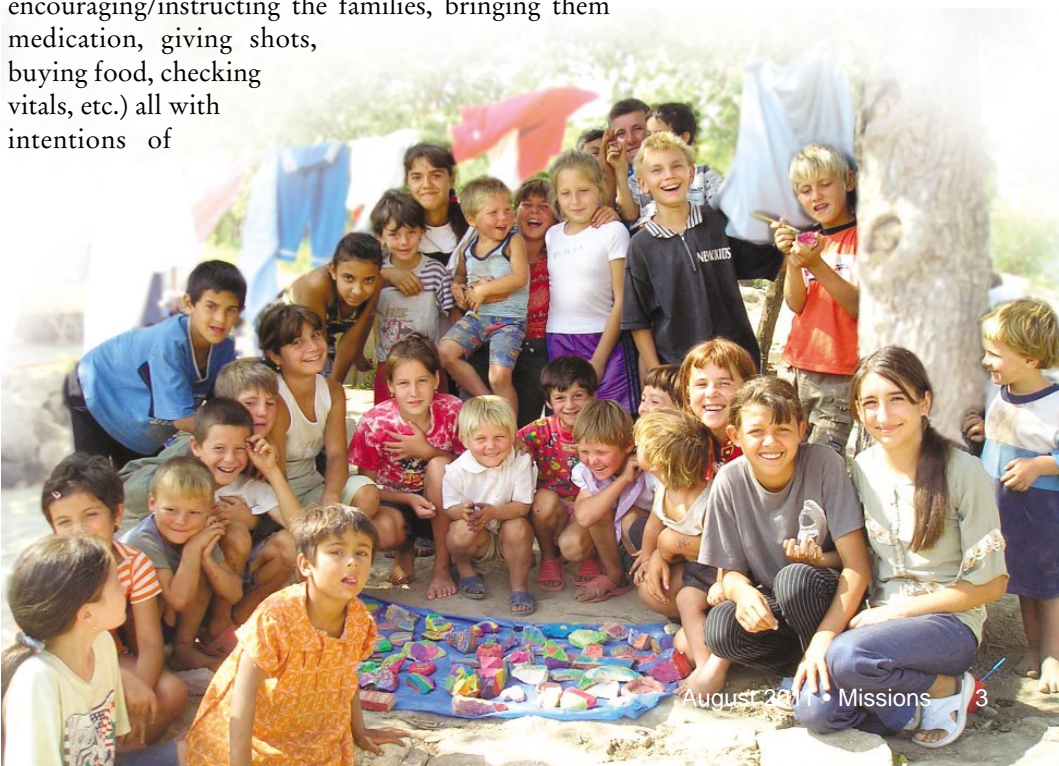


**"If the Lord plants us in the desert, our job is to blossom there in the desert."**

couldn't establish contacts for follow-up. In 2002 we realized holiday evangelism wasn't enough and that we needed to devote more time if we really wanted to reach the area.

As my wife and I walked through the villages we found the people very closed, refusing to even acknowledge our greetings. "Why continue?" I thought, but the Lord had made it clear in so many ways that He wanted us there and we needed to obey.

He led us to a small, old village called Esecchio. This village of about 100 people, mostly widows/widowers, was suspicious and resisted us. Our prayer was: "Lord show us the way to their hearts." We found the local hangout and started spending time with them. We used this opportunity to offer to take their vitals. Soon we found more serious health problems among the people, like Radita, who'd suffered six years with open diabetic ulcers on her feet. We found several other people with serious problems and some with terminal conditions. For those who were dying we offered practical care (holding their hands, prayer and Bible reading, encouraging/instructing the families, bringing them medication, giving shots, buying food, checking vitals, etc.) all with intentions of



**Above (clockwise from top left):** George taking vitals of a man in Esecchio; Camp group in August; Crossing Danube River by ferry; Flower in desert - ©iStockPhoto.com/venturecx. **Right:** Some children at first camp in Esecchio.



sharing Christ boldly before their eternal fate was sealed.

After nearly two months of daily visits to a 24-year-old woman dying of lung cancer, her family emptied a room and asked me to stay with them until she died. When I got home that evening my wife, unaware of the offer from the family, said, “George, that family needs you. Maybe you should stay there more.” It turned out to be one of the most amazing experiences of my life, watching the Lord draw her to Himself, step by step.

In the first two years of this ministry we were at the bedside of 12 or 13 people. We saw at least six of them put their trust in Christ. Unfortunately, not all were so open. The local priest threatened a lady dying of breast cancer with excommunication if she accepted our help. The following day she refused to answer the door and within the year she had passed away. This infuriated many of the people and some turned against the priest.

The Lord also gave us other opportunities to win the hearts of Romanians for Christ. In 2006, the Danube flooded and the neighboring village lost 18 homes. The believers from the assembly offered to rebuild a house for one of the families. The mayor was happy with their work and asked us to build two other homes with state money. This gave us a good standing with the authorities and credibility with the people. It also provided work for the believers through the winter.

As we got to know the nationals better we realized they needed the assurance that we were going to be there long-term. We started praying for a house in one of the villages. In 2005 the mayor offered us an old medical clinic in Esechioi, but we were praying about another, in the middle of the village. Later that year we bought the land we’d been praying about for a little more than \$1,000. The old house had 1.5 acres of land and two neighbors gave us an additional acre.

We wanted to use the house to host camps for the children of Dobrogea. The believers from the assembly came together and within a couple of months we installed water and electricity on the property, we secured the loose structures, made



**Page 4 (L-R from top):** Camp today – new construction on left, old house on right; Repairing old house for sleeping rooms; New construction – bathrooms below, dining/meeting room and kitchen upstairs; We bought this old house, sitting on 1.5 acres of land for \$1,000 in 2005; Children playing games during August 2010 camps; Bible Study and prayer before outreach to villages. **Page 5:** The assembly in Calarasi Romania – born in 1996.

**“The people, though locked into religious traditions, die without the hope found in Christ.”**



an outdoor toilet and cleaned/painted the place. We had our first camps in 2005 but no children from Dobrogea accepted our invitation. We pressed on!

By the second year we had about eight children from three villages and two parents. Also in this time we started getting invitations to speak in the schools before the Christmas and Easter breaks. We’ve since been invited to speak at the schools in each of the 18 villages. The nature of the holidays allowed us to mention the Lord’s birth, death and resurrection.

In 2006 a priest from a neighboring village complained to the county authorities about our camp ministry. The investigation brought publicity to our work and gave us good standing before these higher officials. However, since a formal complaint was issued we were required to meet state requirements, even if our camps were being held privately. Although we felt it was too much and intended to give up on the camps, my elders informed us, after much prayer, that they felt the camps were from the Lord and the battle was of a spiritual nature.

To continue the camps meant drastic changes to our lives.

I was convinced of the call to reach this area, but not so sure about the camps. We had concerns about finishing the construction, but also about being accepted by the people of Dobrogea.

To continue meant more time in Dobrogea and less time with the family and the church. It meant keeping a team of workers together to work across the Danube in difficult and primitive conditions. Mihaela and I were afraid to go on, but we felt maybe it was from the Lord.

There have been beautiful moments and exciting stories, but there have also been trying times. Many times we faced impossible situations and begged the Lord to let us quit. My wife and I have both battled depression and in rough times struggled with our own hearts. Questions like, “Why can’t we just go home and have a simple life?” “Why can’t we be normal Christians with a normal life?” “Why is the Lord asking us to do what is impossible?” At other times we feared Esecchioii would never be finished and we’d lose our credibility with the believers, the local authorities and the people of Dobrogea. The Lord found a way to keep us going and with each struggle He brought new people into our lives to encourage or be encouraged.

What we failed to see at the time and have seen so clearly since is that all of our struggles were actually a part of the plan. It was in these times that the Lord was doing the most important work, whether it be in our hearts, or by bringing us into contact with some of the people I’d mentioned earlier. The Lord has given us a special privilege of being able to watch His work and see His wisdom over a prolonged period of time. We’ve seen him win people. We’ve experienced His love, as He’s changed our hearts and used us to love and win others. It’s been clear that it’s not us, but Christ in us and it’s been incredible to discover the Lord in this way. I’d like to close this article by sharing with you some of the things we’ve learned on this journey.

#### What I’ve learned about the people of Dobrogea:

They’re lonely, tired and without hope. Most have been left without work and live with little (if any) retirement benefits. The young abandon the elderly looking for work in the cities. One old lady sat everyday on the porch and stared at the cemetery on the hill. When I asked her what she was thinking she’d say, “Oh just waiting to join my husband on the hill.” We didn’t realize when we started just how much sorrow was in their hearts.

#### What we’ve learned about serving the Lord:

**1. Obedience:** *Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evil-doers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation (1Peter 2:12).* As we faced rejection and slander this verse reminded us that it was all part of the “journey” and that the Lord would be victorious. The key for us was to handle the challenges before us in a way that showed love and glorified Christ.

**2. Love:** Mr. Ivanof taught me that only love can empower us to serve. My trips across the Danube to visit him and others were often a burden I piously bore for the Lord, however one winter day something changed. On that day the fear I saw in his eyes betrayed him...he knew he was dying. I kept thinking about his eyes. That night, lying in bed, I tried to remember what the other people’s eyes were saying, but I couldn’t remember even one person. I came to realize that I was only seeing a shadow and never looked into the window to their soul. I prayed, asking the Lord to give me more love for those He’s called me to serve. When we think we can go no further, love empowers us.

**3. The process:** Mr. Vlad’s mother taught me that the work of the Lord is in the journey. Nothing had gone right that day and I was eager to retire to the quietness of my home when the phone rang. It was Mr. Vlad, “George can you come over? We need to talk.” “Why,” I asked begrudgingly. “My mother is dying and I want you to tell her about God.” The Lord humbled me as I realized the important thing was not finishing the camps as much as each day of the journey. If the Lord plants us in the desert, our job is to blossom there in the desert

#### What we’ve learned about the Lord:

**He loves people:** We have been amazed to see how much the Lord loves people and how far He goes to save them. Watching the Lord repeatedly bring strangers into our lives, from remote villages, to hear the gospel before they die has been humbling. It’s amazing to realize that He sees and knows every individual and personally cares for each and every one of us.

**Christ cares for His church:** As we pursued Esecchioii we saw the church struggle. Leaving on Monday and returning on Friday made the construction seem like a never ending yoke around our necks. In the winter of 2009 three men (and their wives) got saved working in Esecchioii. Their salvation brought new life and energy into the church. The Lord used the construction to revive the church. The Lord is incredible. He’s the God of the impossible! ❧



*George and Mihaela Murray have been serving the Lord in Romania since 1991. They were adopted in 1996 by the “Munich North” Assembly in Munich Germany and later commended by Grace Bible Chapel in San Jose, California, in 2005.*







# AN ADVENTURE WITH GOD IN AFRICA

by Alexander Kurian



## The Miracle Mission in Malawi

It is amazing how things happen in life. I want to share with you a challenging ministry opportunity God presented me with in Malawi, a tiny country in southeast Africa. My wife Valsa and I were in Tanzania in December 2008, working with a missionary couple from India: Vinoji and Joyce Samuel. We were excited to see the newly planted Christian assembly in Dar-es-Salaam. A Malawian-Christian who was attending the assembly befriended us and invited us to Malawi. Vinoji and Joyce took this invitation seriously and started “spying” the land for potential church-planting and assembly testimony. One year later, in December 2009, Shaji Mathews (Chicago) and I joined the Samuels and we traveled 1,500 kilometers by road from Dar to the remote Mazemb village in Malawi (in Kande, Nkhata bay district, on the western shores of Lake Malawi). After a few days of evangelism, teaching and a baptism service, the first worship and remembrance meeting was held under a cashew-nut tree. I consider this to be a milestone in the assembly missions in Africa.

The Lord continued to prosper the newly-planted assembly. Within a few months, three other assemblies were established in nearby villages. The Samuels worked hard day and night along with the Malawian believers. Just six months ago, in February 2011, the Lord worked another miracle in Malawi. This time, a small missions team, comprised of Rojers Paul (Atlanta), Elizabeth Poulouse (North Carolina) and myself, joined the Samuels for another adventure with God in Malawi. We conducted nine days of intensive teaching and training for the new believers in the newly built assembly hall. We also had the honor of staying in the new mission house built by the Samuels. Although we did not have electricity or running water, we enjoyed the super-abundance of God’s provision and protection in a very remote—and to some extent a very primitive—part of the world. The Lord fed us daily with fresh fish from Lake Malawi.

There was great renewal and revival after the training was

over. Many were equipped and empowered to serve. The first fruits in Malawi, a Malawian couple by the names of Jack and Irene, have moved from Kande to Likuni, the outskirts of Lilongwe (the capital city) for the purposes of starting a new assembly ministry. Their ministry responsibilities at Kande were happily taken over by brother Alamson. Wilson Longwe, a Roman Catholic convert who attended the Roman Catholic seminary for three years, was really challenged by the training and committed himself to the Lord’s work. He started an assembly at Cape Maclear, where Dr. Livingstone began his lake expedition 150 years ago. New Testament principles are at work and God’s global goal is being fulfilled.

Malawi is known as the “Warm Heart of Africa.” The people are very friendly and lead simple lives. They sing, laugh and welcome visitors with a very big smile to their small corner of the world. There is absolute freedom for the propagation of the gospel and tremendous response to it. The doors are wide open. Malawi is “already white unto harvest.” What will our response be?

## News from Nigeria

Two months after the Malawi mission trip, in April of 2011, my first trip to Nigeria proved to be yet another adventure with God. I am so humbled that the Lord chose to send me to this African nation with the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For three weeks, I worked with the missions team led by Jim Gillett of Ireland Outreach (*Missionary Prayer Handbook Day 13*) who has been partnering with the Nigerian assemblies in the work of the Lord for the last 17 years. We were able to visit three major



Nigerian cities and their surrounding areas (Abuja, Jos and Makurdi). With ongoing elections, there were riots and violence in many cities, but by God's grace, we were able to make it through with no problems. Personal evangelism, counseling opportunities, gospel meetings, teaching sessions in various assemblies and especially the seminar-formatted leadership conferences were much appreciated. We had over 1,000 in attendance from the 17 assemblies in Abuja (the capital city). The three Jos area assemblies conducted another seminar-type conference with 200 in attendance, and Makurdi area assemblies had a conference with 500 in attendance. We were slightly disappointed as the annual national Easter conference of the Nigerian assemblies scheduled to be held at Goboko, was canceled due to election violence and unrest in nearby places. The Lord knew what was best and we had to submit to His guidance and leadership.

The people in Nigeria are very friendly and welcoming. There is a real hunger for God's Word as they seldom get overseas missionaries to teach and encourage them. Because of the constant violence and problems between Muslims and Christians, missions work in Nigeria is no easy task. This may be the reason many are reluctant to go to the Nigerian mission field. The northern states are predominantly Muslim, while the southern states have a Christian majority. Islamic radicals infiltrate Nigeria from North African countries. Their goal is to take over Nigeria, and by doing so, they believe that they will be able to take control of the entire continent of Africa. Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa (nearly 160 million) with a tremendous scope for progress and prosperity because of oil and natural resources. Although it is one of the most corrupt countries in the world, it is a matter of great joy that Mr. Good Luck Jonathan, who is a Christian, was re-elected as President of Nigeria in the recent election. However, his hands are tied on several issues due to political pressure from opposing groups.

In the outskirts of the city of Jos is the Haven of Hope, the mission center established by brother Jim Gillett and the Ireland Outreach Mission. The medical clinic, day school, Emmaus Bible Centers, gospel outreach, drilling wells and supplying water for the villagers, are some of the most impacting ministries undertaken by Haven of Hope. I had the opportunity to counsel many of the patients at Haven of Hope's medical clinic, who voluntarily sought counsel and prayer. Community service and humanitarian contribution of the mission have really built credibility in the hearts and

minds of the people and government officials. I have never seen the impact and influence of Emmaus courses as much as I have seen it in Nigeria. People from all walks of life are enrolled in these courses, and the daily transformation they undergo can be seen right in front of our eyes.

As I was checking in at the Lufthansa counter at the Abuja airport for my return flight to Dallas, Jim Gillett introduced me as a missionary who voluntarily came to serve in Nigeria. The Nigerian Lufthansa staff very much appreciated that and requested me to pray for them publicly at the counter, so we all joined hands and prayed. Will this happen in any other country? What about the "Christian" United States?

Although there were tense moments and security issues at times, it was a thrilling, challenging and enlightening experience for me to see what the Lord is doing in Nigeria through the assembly testimony established nearly 100 years ago (200 plus assemblies existing today). Many of the Nigerian believers shared their heartfelt appreciation for our coming and pleaded with us to come back again.

As many *MISSIONS* Magazine readers know, Spencer and Phyllis Dibble, Tom and Lois Wheeler and Caroline Gross (all *Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 3) are the only remaining assembly missionaries in Nigeria. They are doing a commendable service there for the glory of God (see April 2011 issue of *MISSIONS*). Let us fervently pray for Nigeria. Together, we will watch God build His church and we will do our part to stay by His side. What a glorious day it will be when the banner of Jesus Christ is raised over this country.

"Let the nations be glad and sing for joy." ❧

[EDITOR'S NOTE: As this issue went to press we received word that Mrs. Phyllis Dibble was called home to be with the Lord on June 21, 2011.]

*Alexander Kurian was born and raised in India. He has been an itinerant evangelist and Bible teacher with the assemblies for the last 33 years in the U.S. and India. He is in fellowship at Edmonds Lane Bible Chapel in Lewisville, TX (a suburb of Dallas) and a commended worker from that assembly.*

**Page 6 (L-R):** The first breaking of bread meeting in Malawi; The Nigeria Missions Team; Counselling the patients at the Haven of Hope clinic; Leadership Seminar at Jos.

**Page 7 (L-R):** The attendees of the training program in Malawi; Getting ready for a baptism service at Lake Malawi; Leadership seminar at Abuja; Haven of Hope providing drinking water for children; The medical clinic at Haven of Hope.





# A Missionary's Goal: Creating an Indigenous Ministry

by Mason Jacobson

My wife and I were commended to serve the Lord in Peru in 1997. We served there for 12 years until we moved our country of service to Belize in 2009. We would like to share how the Lord worked to raise up a young Peruvian man to take over the work and carry on for the Lord, which of course was our ultimate goal. To God be the glory.

It was 7:30 p.m. when my co-worker showed up late for the Bible study. It was a very strange occurrence as he was normally very punctual especially

in his culture. I was particularly concerned since I was dependant on his help as my Spanish was still broken and needed many more months of practice and instruction. Upon arriving late, he explained about arriving at his bus stop and finding a terrible commotion. As curiosity would have it, he investigated only to find a young man lying in the roadway in a pool of blood. Though a surprise to many, this was a direct answer to prayer as the man lay with a terribly mangled leg and other injuries. Upon further investigation, the man, still conscious, recognized my co-worker and called to him. As he neared, he realized it was his drug-addicted neighbor.

Several weeks earlier, this injured man named Michel, fell down on his knees before the only concept he knew of as God, which was a Catholic image of Jesus Christ. In tears and desperation, he cried out that if God really existed only God could rescue him from his disastrous life of drugs, alcohol, wife-beating and things not proper to even mention. His answer to this prayer came in the form of being run over by a bus.

A few weeks after the Bible study mentioned above, I visited Michel, who was convalescing in his home. He lived in a rough neighborhood and was very interested in studying the Bible. His cry out to God was answered. While he was recovering in the hospital, he was forced to go through drug and alcohol detoxification and a visitor gave him a Bible to read.

Through a period of several weeks of studying a Bible course called "Firm Foundations," Michel came to understand the gospel and believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, putting his faith in Him for eternal Salvation. Not many weeks later, his wife also came to know the Savior and this was followed some years later by their daughter, Gema. The Lord blessed them with seven more children in the years to come who they have diligently taught the Word of God.

Michel soon became a diligent student of the Bible and he assisted me in the work in Peru, while I came to his aid many times as temptation was always near.

Michel was saved at the age of 26, but his previous life was one of terrible report. His father had deserted his mother, two brothers and him to run off to live in Columbia. To survive, the family became immersed in the dark world of the black market and his mom had him selling



▲ Mason and Michel with Jeremy in the high country.



▲ Michel giving a gospel message to the Village of Tinta.



▲ Michel saddling up for a trek to the 15,000 foot gospel outreach.



▲ Michel and family having a day together.

Top: Michel at 13,500 feet on an outreach to the high country.



*It is truly an amazing story to see how the Lord, in His love and mercy, took this lost sinner and has brought him to be a lovely example of a believing husband and father of eight children.*

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drugs at the age of five. As he grew up, he was exposed to literally every sin under the sun. It is truly an amazing story to see how the Lord, in His love and mercy, took this lost sinner and has brought him to be a lovely example of a believing husband and father of eight children.

Life is hard for Michel and his family. When we were still in Peru, he was diagnosed with active tuberculosis. For nearly eight months he was so weakened by the illness and treatment that he was unable to even work. Amazingly, the Lord not only brought him through that trial, but used it to make him stronger spiritually.

Today, he meets with a small group of believers who gather to the name of the Lord to break bread and study the Scriptures. During the day, he drives a taxi six days a week, sometimes 16 hours, to bring home sufficient money to feed his family. His work provides the perfect platform for his true gift of an evangelist, sharing and preaching the good news to sometimes more than a dozen people a day. Michel has become a true missionary, elder and evangelist in his own country for the Lord. To God be all the praise and glory.

The other part of this story touches his dear family. Maria is a devoted woman and mother who works tirelessly to raise her children, alongside Michel, in the care and nurture of the Lord. Though she suffers from many of her own physical ailments, she always goes on never questioning the motives of her Savior.

The family has been verbally persecuted by just about

every friend and family member. In his drug-infested neighborhood, they say that an evangelical only lasts two years before succumbing again to the old lifestyle. What a testimony it has been as they are now beyond their 12th year in the new life Christ has given them! They decided early on to take their oldest daughter out of public school as they saw the disastrous consequences of a third-world child being raised in a Latin American country being taught evolution and exposed to moral perversions from peers. Their daughter, now 17-years-old, participated in a home school project and has advanced sufficiently in English to be able to enroll in a program that would enable her to be an English teacher when she graduates. By the way, she is ranked second in her class. This will be a real blessing to the family as she will be able to help in a big way financially, relieving her dad of having to nearly work himself to death. I must say, though, he does it without complaining and always speaks with the joy of being able to impart the gospel. Pray for this family as they continue on in the work of the Lord and as Michel prepares his younger boys to also be ambassadors for Christ. To God be the glory. 🙏



*Mason and Debbie Jacobson were commended to the Lord's work in Peru by Garland Bible Chapel in Garland, Texas in 1997 where they worked until 2009. They are now serving in Belize.*

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# A Dream Realized in ARGENTINA

by Ron & Gloria Edgecombe

For family reasons, in the year 2000 we returned to Vancouver, Canada after 15 years of missionary service in Argentina. We were not ready to lose contact with this country we had adopted as our own or the dear people whom we had come to love but we did not know how or when we would be able to return to visit. The Lord fulfilled the desire of our hearts through an invitation to return every year to serve for a month as directors of a camp for underprivileged children on the Atlantic coast of Argentina. This was our 11th year returning in this capacity. The owners of the camp La Villa de los Niños, Rubén and Delia Andrés, dedicate the month of January to having these camps in order that unchurched children would not only experience the thrill of a week at the sea, but could also learn, many for the first time, of the love of God for them. It had always been our desire to visit one of the groups of children in their home environment and we especially wanted to visit a group that came from the north. This year, the Lord made it possible for us to do this and on March 11th we left for a five-day trip to the northern province of Jujuy, in particular, to the small town of Tumbaya.

The trip was about 15 hours on two buses. When we arrived at 8:30 in the morning, Beatriz, a music teacher and our contact person, was at the bus station to meet us with her husband and son. They had all been at camp and it was like greeting old time friends. They took us to their home for breakfast and then in a borrowed car, drove us to the small town of Tumbaya, to see the kids.

Many times during this trip we felt like we were seeing people that have been left behind in a different time zone. For them, things go on and are done as they were 100 years ago. They are a very religious people; Catholicism mixed with idolatry, particularly of the “Pachamama,” Mother

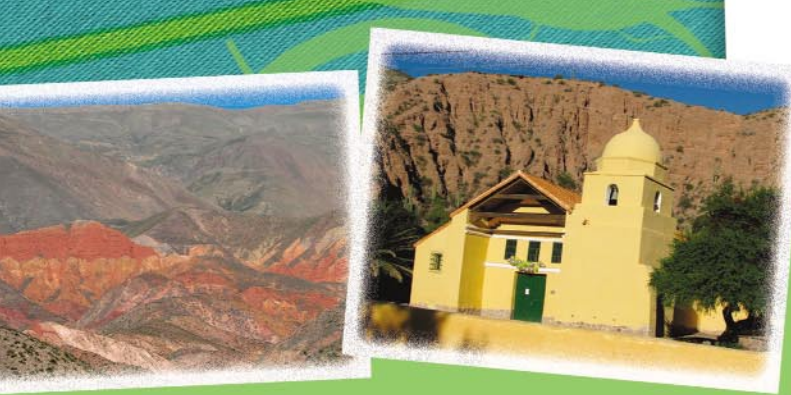
Earth. She is worshiped for what she yields from the land and what they hope she will continue to give them, the fruits of their labor. The town of Tumbaya has a population of about 400. It is behind a wall and the whole town consists of about four blocks of streets, the municipal hall, a community center, the church, the school and a plaza. It was very quiet. Ron and I went out for a walk at about 5:00 p.m. and there was no one on the street—apparently too cold for them! Tumbaya has a desert climate, the sun is scorching hot in the day but when the sun goes down, it gets cold.

The first thing we did was go to the school to see the kids. They had put up a big banner that said “Welcome Ronnie and Gloria” and they were all so happy. There were only about 25 or 30 kids there who had gone to camp but all the others were excited and enthused as well as they had heard all about the camp. We met the school director and she was very grateful for the week the kids had spent at La Villa de los Niños. All the students saw the presentation that we showed on the last night at the banquet and also a video of the program the kids had put on with traditional songs and dances. They get so excited to see themselves.

After that we were taken to another place from which some of the kids had come. It cannot even be called a town it is so small. The school sits on a hill and in the distance you can see the houses—one here, one there, another further along. Some of the kids walk one to two hours to get to school. These kids also, about 35 of them, were anxiously waiting our arrival. Some of the parents were there as well. They invited us to a delicious lunch, all home-grown—lamb, chicken, potatoes, corn, cheese and tomatoes. We showed them the presentation and then they had a little ceremony where they gave us some gifts. That afternoon, our host couple took us to a very picturesque place where you can see







**Top (L-R):** The mountains of seven colors; The Roman Catholic Church is dominant in these little towns. **Bottom (L-R):** Rural school in Tumbaya Grande, Jujuy, Argentina; Tumbaya nestled in the Mountains—it has no evangelical witness within 100's of miles. **At Right (from top):** Walled city of Tumbaya; Gloria speaking to the children and their parents about the childrens' experience at camp; Children listening attentively to the Word of God; Some of the children that went to camp with their parents; The children were very attentive as we told them about Jesus in the public school system; The children in their native costumes on banquet night at the camp.

"The Hills of Seven Colors." The whole time we could not stop marveling at the creation of the Lord, the beauty of all He has created and we were very taken with this province...it is exceptionally beautiful.

We were pleasantly surprised to hear that they had organized a bus trip for us with the kids that went to camp to another famous town called Humahuaca. A few years ago we had a group from there come to camp so we had some knowledge of it. Again we were very impressed by the beauty of it, by the humble people, so kind and loving. That night we had a fiesta for the kids and their parents where we ate, again showed the presentation so that the parents could see it, and then gave each of them a letter with a picture of the whole camp. This letter is the one we always write to the kids who attend camp, taking advantage of the Easter season so we can again tell them about Jesus who died on the cross for our sins because He loved us so much. We also tell them that He rose again and is in heaven and is coming again someday soon. We had a gift for all the mothers too which was most appreciated.

The day we were to leave we went back to the capital with Beatriz and spent the day with her and her family. Both she and her husband made a profession of faith at camp and we pray they will continue to grow in the Lord. We thank the Lord for opportunities we had to testify for Him, not only in word but also by our actions, by the things we were able to do and our attitude towards these dear children and their families. ☺



*Ron and Gloria Edgecombe were commended to the Lord's work in Argentina in 1967 by an assembly in Vancouver, BC, Canada.*

