



# Thinking It Through

THOMAS J. SCHETELICH

## Disappointed Workers

In Matthew 20, Jesus told a parable, saying that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who hired laborers for his vineyard. He hired some early for a denarius; then at 9:00, he hired others, then again at 12 noon, again at 3:00, and finally some at 5:00, to whom he promised “whatever is right.”

At the end of the day, each worker receives a denarius – the same wage for each one no matter how long he had worked. Those hired at the start of the day grumbled and complained that the payment was unfair, but the landowner said “*Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what is yours and go your way.*” (Matthew 20:13-14).

What is the point? Who are these unhappy workers? Are there Christians who “at the end of the day” will be grumbling and disappointed?

This parable follows directly on an exchange that the Lord had with a rich man, and then with His disciples, in Matthew 19. The rich man asked what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to sell all he had and give to the poor; but he went away sorrowful, esteeming riches on earth more valuable than life in heaven. Then in Matthew 19:27 Peter said to Jesus “*See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?*”

Peter asked the question that the disciples were all wondering about: What will I get for following Jesus? We have left all: “*So what shall we have?!*”

Many Christians carry that mindset. They think that discipleship is like an employment contract, with duties for us to do, and a corresponding benefit package. They believe that if you conduct your ministry according to biblical principles, God must therefore profit your efforts.

This “what do I get for following Christ” mindset is very much on display in our culture of immediate gratification. It is an insidious attitude, which worms its way into our thinking, and reduces our faith to the level of a good bargain. We start to think of ourselves as the Lord’s servants, seeking to trade obligation for reward, like it was our job, and we expect to be treated fairly by the boss. But this is an attitude that we must

leave behind, if we are to get beyond “virtual Christianity” and lay hands on the real thing.

The reason is—and I say this reverently but I say it with conviction—that if you serve Jesus Christ for what you can get out of it, then you will always be disappointed. That may surprise some people, as the disciples were surprised in Matthew 19. But I submit that is why many people are disappointed in their Christian lives and ministries today. They are in it for the benefit package. They have changed the relationship of grace and love to one about work and wages.

That is what the parable in Matthew 20 is all about. It was told in direct response to Peter’s question: *see all that we have done, therefore what do we get?*

Certainly God is no man’s debtor. Not a cup of cold water given in the name of Christ will lose its reward. The vineyard workers could be sure that the owner would pay the full wage due.

But that falls so far short of what we should be. The core of the parable is found in verses 13 and 14, where the landowner says to the worker: “*Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Take what is yours and go your way.*”

What do you want God to say to you “at the end of the day,” when He reviews your life and service? Here, there are people who have worked the longest and the hardest and the best, and the Lord says to them: *I am doing you no wrong, take what is yours and go your way?* You have missed the point of it all. You have served for what you can get, and so you have it, but that is all.

In a word, if you are going to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are going to have to do it for Him. Don’t do it for the rewards, don’t do it for the blessings—*do it only for Him!*

So, if you are a Christian working hard in the vineyard, one who starts early and stays the course, then take inspiration and warning from this parable. Be on guard against the quiet danger of turning your spiritual service into a job. And as we work in the vineyard together, may the Lord bless the harvest as we gather it. 🌿

Vol. 40, No. 11. 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.

COVER PHOTO: Annecy, France – Peg Hart

# Wings of the Morning & Lake Tanganyika



by Harry & Ruth Johnson

The dream of building a sailboat to reach inaccessible villages along the shores of Lake Tanganyika has long been on our hearts; in mine (Harry) since childhood perhaps, having grown up in Bujumbura, Burundi on a hilltop overlooking the northern end of the lake and suffering a longing from early age to know what lay down the long blue corridor of water, wedged between the mountain ranges.

Lake Tanganyika is shared by four nations: Burundi in the northeast, Congo in the west, Zambia in the south end and Tanzania holding most of the eastern shore. In the introduction to his classic book, "Fishes of Lake Tanganyika," Pierre Brichard writes:

*"The lake spreads its turquoise waters roughly on a north-south bearing just south of the Equator. It fills most of a deeply cut rift, part of the Great African Rift Valley. The lake valley extends for more than 450 miles. The width of the lake averages about 25 miles, but the maximum of 50 miles is reached in the central part of the lake. To illustrate these abstract figures, let us say that the length of Lake Tanganyika equals the distance between New York and Cleveland. With a maximum depth of 4,800 feet, Tanganyika is the second deepest lake on our planet, second only to Lake Baikal (in Siberia). The total surface of the lake is more than the area of Belgium. The volume of water is just over 4,000 cubic miles, almost one sixth of the world's liquid freshwater."*



The population of the catchment area of Lake Tanganyika is estimated to be 10 million and is growing rapidly. The majority of the people living around the lake rely on small-scale agriculture and fisheries for their food and income. Local people value the lake for several reasons: as a source of fish, a highway, a supply of drinking and washing water and as a receptacle for effluent.

Starting at the northeast corner of Burundi and moving clockwise around the lake, we list the main ethno-linguistic groups: Rundi, Ha, *Tongwe*, *Fipa*, Bemba, Tabwa, *Tumbwe*, *Holoholo*, *Goma*, *Bwari*, Bembe and Vira. The names in italics are the least-reached with the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Assembly work around the lake has focused on the three main ports, the only real cities in this largely undeveloped basin. Work in Kalemie, Congo began in the 1930's, and work in Bujumbura, Burundi started in 1950 when Harry's parents moved down from the northeast Congo. The focus out of the two earlier rural centers was more inland, away from the lake where there were dense pockets of people needing the gospel and not so much up and down the lake. There is still "much



**Page 3: (top)** Wings of the Morning in Kigoma harbor; **(small photos L-R)** Our sons Luke and Jesse framing the cabin roof; Fishermen close-hauled to "check-out" our ship; Young people enjoying themselves.

**Page 4 & 5: (L-R from top)** Under full sail; Ben and his dad relaxing once out of harbor; A typical lakeside village, accessible only from the water; Damage after the ship went aground in storm; Heading out of Kigoma harbor with the cross before us; **(small photos L-R)** The two Muslim shipwrights at work building the hull; Steven, our youngest at the helm; **(lower right)** Sails hoisted and ready to go.



land to possess" along the shore, especially in Congo and south of Kigoma in Tanzania.

Satan has long held sway over this vast inland sea. The worship of demons impersonating the ancestors has kept these Bantu people captive for centuries and still does to a large extent. As recently as a few decades ago, human sacrifice was practiced in the south by throwing victims from the cliffs ringing the lake. Even now, rumors continue to surface of children being slaughtered (instead of roosters) by fishermen to ensure a profitable season. The lake basin has an exceptionally high incidence of albinos and during the last two years, over 30 have been murdered for their body parts, which are considered powerful medicine to gain what people covet. The malevolent spirits are said to hover over the lake, especially around certain capes or at the mouths of rivers and this can be seen in names like *The Cape of the Spirits* for example, at the end of the Ubwari Peninsula in Congo where there are underwater thermal springs and where "ghost" fishing crews are sometimes seen, toiling in the light of their lamps only to disappear again. Hidden caves where skulls of ancient kings are kept are still visited. Even the natural wonders of the lake, its fierce storms, the threatening waterspouts and huge clouds of tiny lake flies (rare now) rising like the smoke of a furnace, are interpreted with dread.

Into this dungeon of fear came the Arab slave traders in the middle of the 19th Century bringing with them new satanic shackles: (1) The degrading evil and almost unfathomable woe of human trafficking. (2) The bondage of Islam with its impossible demands and sensual indulgences. Slavery has long been banned, but Islam is now entrenched around this lake, especially among the mixed descendants of the slavers and their victims.

The colonial regimes were purportedly set up to stop the slave trade, but the harshness of their rule, especially in Congo, makes people here suspicious of their real motives. Roman Catholicism soon chained up all of Congo's southern shore,

with zealous priests leading whole congregations of proselytes across the lake to the eastern side to set up Catholic settlements in order to keep the "heretical" Protestants out. Many early evangelical chapels with thatched roofs were torched by the priests' disciples in the first half of the 20th Century.

Add to this the cry of the blood of many, many innocent people that has flowed into Lake Tanganyika from the recent wars and ethnic conflict plaguing the Great Lakes Region of Africa...and it is more than sufficient to make us cry out:

**"Long enough has Satan controlled this beautiful lake with its crystal waters! Long enough has he kept the population of its basin in bondage! May his evil fortresses crumble!"**

Many have been the attempts to use boats to bring the Good News to remote villages, the earliest being a metal sailing ketch, *Good News*, assembled by an English missionary society in Zambia at the south end of Lake Tanganyika before World War I. The Germans soon captured the ship and used it in their war effort and scuttled it when they were driven out of the area. We can list other boats, their names testifying to a burning desire to drive back the darkness and let Christ rule the waves: *Blessing, Grace of God, Angel, Pilgrim, Hope* etc....but Satan is not giving up easily and most of these vessels are now derelict hulks, the dreams of their builders frustrated by opposition coming through storm and war.

We are thankful for the many African believers who have taken the gospel up and down the lake in a simple manner, but even where churches have been started there is a great lack of biblical understanding and much of the preaching has been tainted with legalism.

Our vision is to take evangelists, Bible teachers and choirs in our newly-launched ship, *Wings of the Morning* to the otherwise inaccessible villages, starting in Tanzania south of Kigoma, carrying film and musical equipment, literature and some medical help. We designed our sailboat with a risible centerboard and rudder to be able to come close inshore to these settlements.



We have felt targeted by the evil one since beginning this venture. In March of this year, five days after we launched the ship, a terrific storm caused her to drag her moorings and she sustained considerable damage to her keel and hull when she went aground. It was a miracle she wasn't completely wrecked in the surf but help from the African and missionary community came and she was hauled out in time.

We re-launched her in June after repairs, then after a half-dozen trial sails, we were out on the lake again and while waiting for the wind to pick up, we were rammed by a 70 foot wooden cargo ship (they had no lookout posted)! Damage was minimal and we are thankful no one was injured. We have found a safe mooring spot in the Kigoma harbour near the port among fishing vessels where we have already seen an interest among that community for the One we represent. We have also been able to witness to our shipwrights and caulkers who are Muslims. One is reading the New Testament now.

Some people hearing of our boat might think "luxury yacht" but the *Wings of the Morning* is not a pleasure craft, rather it is a vessel for God's honor, made out of local materials that can be maintained locally, with sailing capabilities to cut fuel costs which continue to rise, a ministry that can be carried on by local believers. Our son Luke Johnson (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 4) and his wife Gina are very involved in this project as well. We still have a lot to do to finish the shell of a cabin and completing safety equipment, but we are happy with the ship's stability and the way she handles under sail and her splendid entry into the waves. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve the living God in this way, revelling in His design, in the power of His wind and waves, all the time knowing that He has a hand on the tiller. 🌀



Harry & Ruth Johnson have been commended to the Lord's work since 1976 by the believers at Brooklyn Bible Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland.



## **PARTICULARS OF THE SHIP**

**Two-masted gaff-rigged ketch**

**Length Overall – 36 feet**

**Beam (width) – 12 feet**

**Draft (with centerboard and rudder up) – 2 feet**

**Sail Area (two headsails [jibs], mainsail, mizzen sail) – 555 sq. feet**

**Auxiliary Power – 25 hp outboard engine**

**Designed and Built 2010-2011 by Harry & Luke Johnson**

**Shipwrights – Dunia & Amisi**



# God's Love Shines Brighter in the Dark

by C. Wendy Schulz

As a wife, home schooling mother and missionary, I wasn't exactly looking for more to do. Our house in Potosí, Bolivia was a hub of activity that often bore a greater resemblance to a hotel than a home. I enjoyed discipling women and doing hospital visitation. My life was full in every sense of the word and another ministry was not something I had in mind—certainly not prison ministry.

An older woman named Bertha invited me to go with her to the nearby maximum security prison. I had a lot of reasons to refuse, however she persisted and I finally agreed to accompany her one Friday afternoon. It was a decision that would change my life and allow me to see God work in amazing ways.

We began teaching a Bible study in the women's section of the prison but soon became aware of the need in the men's section. Young men repeatedly asked us to visit them, and expressed their desire to study God's Word. At that time no one else was sharing Christ among the men in the prison. My husband reminded me that Deborah had led the men into battle when no one else was willing to do so and, with that encouragement, we moved ahead.

Each time it was challenging to get into the prison and pass through all the security. At first, the many setbacks and hostile attitudes of the guards was upsetting. But, as we saw God at work in the lives of the inmates and felt His love for them flow through our hearts, we were inspired to persist in spite of the difficulties.

The warden of the prison had been very supportive of Bertha and those who had previously accompanied her. Then, due to some very unfortunate circumstances, the warden himself became a prisoner. We began to visit him regularly to share the Word and pray with him, and before long, he turned his life over to the Lord. God used him to cause the prison guards to warm up to us and become more cooperative.

While visiting the ex-warden, we came to know a prisoner named Hugh. He was not a believer but would at times attend the Bible study. God put Hugh on our hearts in a special way. Luz and Nancy, two ladies from our assembly, began to study the Scriptures with him and the other young inmates who shared his cell. Together we earnestly prayed that Hugh would come to know Christ.

Hugh was considered to be a very dangerous prisoner and was greatly feared by the other inmates. We were convinced,

however, that God was going to work in his life. Hugh would order the young men in his cell to read their Bibles each night and they dutifully obeyed him! He would make sure that they finished the study assignment each week before Luz and Nancy arrived. Hugh began to take more interest in the Bible studies and we continued to pray.

An ex-prisoner named David, who had been together with Hugh in a prison in La Paz, had come to know Christ and joined us in prayer for Hugh's conversion. Hugh had been paid to kill this man and was amazed to discover that now he was praying for him.

One day Hugh was sent to solitary confinement because of a problem that had arisen, and there the miracle happened. He had a remarkable encounter with Christ and found peace with God. A few months later he was baptized by the very man that he had sought to kill years earlier. Our joy went right off the charts!

Another prisoner named Oscar was sent from the maximum security prison in La Paz to the prison in Potosí. Whenever I asked him if I could pray for him he would respond that Jesus was not for him, but would grudgingly accept.

One day we were informed that Oscar had been in a fight and had been stabbed. He had been taken to the hospital and, as our house was nearby, I visited him regularly. On one visit, my husband, Jurgen, came along and shared the gospel with Oscar. Imagine our joy when Jurgen was able to lead him in prayer and we were witnesses of his birth into God's family. Oscar discovered that Jesus was indeed for him after all!

During those years we saw numerous men and women come to Christ and be baptized. Each story was unique. God's miracles never failed to amaze us.

When opposition came our way from another religious



©iStockPhoto.com/THEPALMER

group and we were left without a place to hold the Bible studies, Bertha and I began to call out to God for a place where we could meet. It seemed like an impossible dream, however, God began to work. Funds and authorization were finally obtained and we moved forward with the construction project.

Building a chapel inside the prison was a large undertaking and we were thrilled when Eddy Mendieta, an engineer from our assembly, was able to assume the supervision of the work. A number of prisoners joined the work crew. Eddy not only directed the construction but also became very involved in Bible teaching and ministering to the inmates.

One prisoner who received Christ had previously worked as a professional clown. His life had been full of rejection, pain and moral failure. Excited about his new relationship with Christ, he painted a huge mural outside his cell that said: "God hates sin but He loves sinners." He obtained permission from the warden to go into solitary confinement twice a week to preach the gospel, and as a result, a number of people accepted Christ.

One day he phoned me very distraught because someone had told him that he wasn't qualified to preach the gospel and should stop. After our talk he decided to give it one more try. He told the Lord that if someone received Christ he would know that he was meant to carry on. To his amazement most of the prisoners in that section prayed to trust the Lord!

A while later someone threatened his life and he was placed in solitary confinement as a protective measure. Once again he was battling discouragement. "If God is using you when you go into solitary twice a week, imagine how He can use you if you are there 24-hours a day," I said to him. Sometime later he invited me to his cell. There were nine men sitting on mattresses on the floor and one by one they shared how they had committed their lives to Christ. Later we had the joy of seeing them all baptized!

In 2009 our family relocated to the capital, La Paz. It was difficult for us to leave the city and the people who had become so dear to us, yet it was obvious that this was God's doing and His timing. We are grateful that the prison ministry in Potosí continues and the Word of God is preached in the prison chapel. Pablo Monroy, a dear brother from Santa Cruz who spoke at the inauguration of the chapel, occasionally visits there and recently saw 18 people follow the Lord in baptism.

The doors opened to three different prisons in La Paz. A young American inmate, whom I had visited a few times in the past, now became a priority. His mother in California was very grateful that I could support him and share the Lord's love with him. He had a troubled past and a heart that was hardened against God. We were able to share together regularly, and over time, he began to soften. Although he could not

admit it, it was evident that he wanted me to talk to him about God. We had no idea that he would soon leave this world for the next. Our hope is to see him one day in the Lord's presence.

In 2010 violence broke out in the maximum security prison that I visit each Saturday. Different prisoners were killed and terror reigned. Everyone feared for their life. Deeply troubled about this situation, I spent many sleepless nights crying out to God and many others joined me in prayer. Slowly the darkness began to recede and the killings came to an end. The whole atmosphere gradually changed. Interest in spiritual things increased dramatically. One of the leaders of the prison told me that now over half of the inmates are attending some type of Christian gathering! Many prisoners are convinced that this is God's doing and have asked that believers on the outside continue to pray for them.

Looking back over the last nine years of visiting prisons in Potosí and La Paz, it fills me with great joy and amazement at all that God has done. We have seen the power of Christ's love melt the hardest hearts. We are witnesses to the fact that the Lord uses weak and ordinary instruments to shine His light in dark places. We have discovered that there is no limit to His love and that no one is beyond the reach of His marvelous grace. ☺



*Jurgen Schulz is commended from assemblies in Victoria, B.C. and Courtenay, B.C., Canada. He has been serving in Bolivia since 1977.*

*Wendy and Jurgen were married in 1982 and Wendy was commended by her assembly in Courtenay, B.C. Jurgen and Wendy have been involved in planting assemblies in the cities of Santa Cruz and Potosí. They are currently working in the city of La Paz.*

Believers in chapel

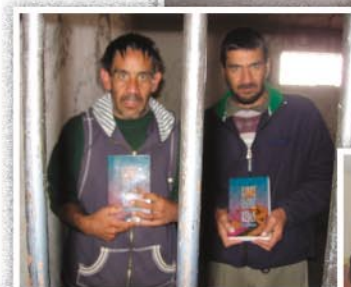


Pablo and Berta at the entrance to the prison

Behind bars with study books



Outside the prison



Prison group



# 2011 Conference for European Workers

by Mary Parsons

Oh the joy of gathering together with those of like-minded faith and service. Such was the annual conference for our European missionaries held once again in Annecy, France, August 20-26, 2011. It was obvious from the first meal together that these servants of the Lord greatly enjoyed wonderful camaraderie and fellowship. This coupled with hours of rest, relaxation and great spiritual encouragement that comes from spending time in God's Word was a real blessing to all attending. The conference, organized by an appointed committee of on field missionaries, has convened over the years in various locations—but always with the purpose of bringing together from different countries and ministries—those who have followed the Lord's leading to the European continent.

Although the attendance was down this year, due to furloughs, family commitments (such as illnesses/weddings) the cost of travel and the devaluation of the Euro, there were some missionaries from each of the following countries; Ireland, Spain, France, Belgium, Italy, Serbia, Switzerland and Russia. Joining the group were representatives of three of the assembly based mission service organizations. Andy and Lis Street attended from Echoes of Service in Bath, England. Representing MSC Canada in Toronto, Ontario were Bill and Naomi Yuille. Phil and Mary Parsons and Peg Hart traveled from Christian Missions in Many Lands (CMML) located in Wall Township, New Jersey. Russell and Alison Sutherland (MSC Canada) and Allan and Fiona Wilks (CMML) returned again to the conference, offering valuable help in the areas of teaching and technical assistance.

Having spent a lifetime first as a missionary in Brazil,

South America, and then for many years training missionaries at GLO Ministries of New Zealand, Brian Goodwin was well qualified to teach God's Word in each of the morning sessions. His subject dealt with the topic of being a "Slave for Christ." Titles of some of the messages included:

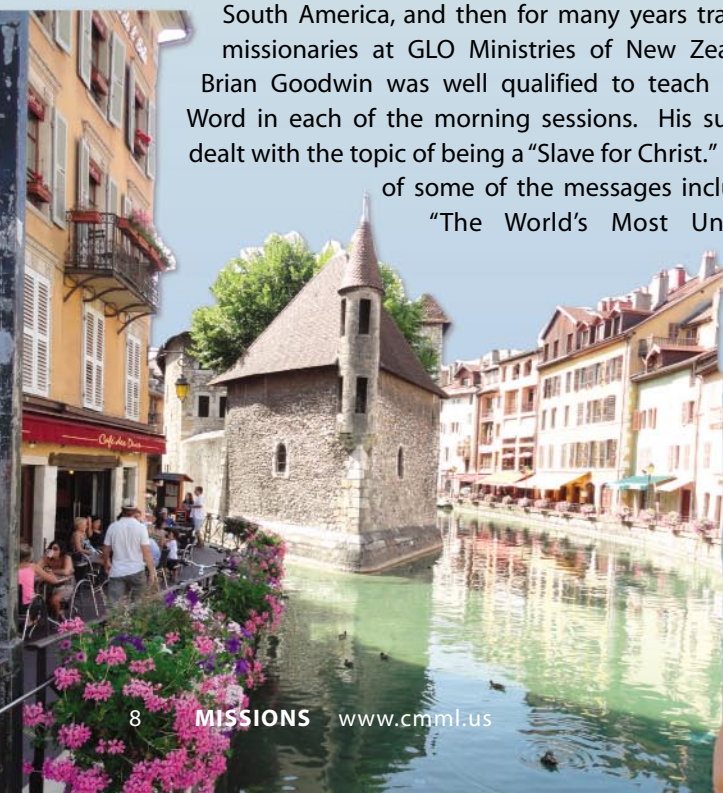
"The World's Most Unlikely

Slave," "You Belong to Christ Now," "The Restless Slave" and "The Reluctant Slave" just to note a few, all of which gave us a fresh and compelling perspective on slavery in New Testament times and from there he drew many devotional and practical applications. His messages covered a broad area of teaching and with great illustrations he covered topics that were a great help in areas of personal and family life as well as ministry and relationships with co-workers and local church fellowships. Brian and his wife Gwenda have been commended by four assemblies in New Zealand and have had an active teaching ministry in recent years in New Zealand and Australia.

During the morning hours, a well-qualified staff of teachers cared for the children of those attending the conference. Sara Rettig (Former missionary to Ireland) and Emily Vargas (Spain/U.S.) ran the nursery and pre-school program. Alison Sutherland, of Canada, once again prepared a great program for the early elementary age children. Dan and Peggy Covert of Seattle, WA and frequent participants in the conference, prepared lessons and activities for the upper elementary kids. The teens were taught by Stu Modrzejewski and Michelle Burger, both from the U.S. Over the years, great friendships have developed among these Missionary Kids (MKs) and they look forward to this annual event with great anticipation. It was special to have visiting, a few of the married children of the missionaries who returned to the conference along with their own families.

Music played a great part in our sessions each day. Stu Modrzejewski and Odette Beauregard (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 11) led the group in "songs, hymns and spiritual songs" focusing our thoughts on the Lord Jesus. On the morning of our last full day together, we enjoyed meeting around the table to break bread in a time of worship and remembrance.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging times each day was when we met both in the morning and evening to listen to reports of the Lord's work in each area of service. Thanks to Don Tinder (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 10) these sessions







were well organized so that each person or family had a specific amount of time to share blessings, discouragements and prayer requests. Following each presentation, a time was spent in prayer bringing each ministry before the Lord. There was a real sense of care and concern for each missionary family as their needs were brought to the throne of grace. Time was also spent in prayer for those who were not able to attend the conference. Several participants from years past are dealing with age and health related issues. They were really missed!

Anney is a beautiful, old, French town located just a short distance from the Swiss border. This location is fairly central for most of those traveling and is easily accessible to the airport in Geneva, Switzerland. The beauty of Lake Anney and the adjacent towering mountain peaks was spectacular. Our resort, Le Pre-du-Lac, was family friendly with lots of room for outdoor activities. The weather was wonderful allowing many to take advantage of a great swimming pool while others relaxed under the trees with a good book. Opportunities abounded for quiet reflection for individuals or good conversations and happy fellowship with old and new friends (and amazing chocolate from Belgium)!

Each afternoon, Kathy Moriarty (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 13), planned a trip to different historical and picturesque locations. A short walk up a winding trail one afternoon led us to areas with panoramic views of the whole region. That day ended with a visit to an open market with lots of locally made products. My personal favorite was the chocolate pistachio nugget! Other options for afternoon tourism included a visit to a chateau, a trip to a local underground cave and a walking tour around the town of Anney itself.

At 5:00 p.m., following the activities of the afternoon, groups met to attend various seminars dealing with topics of interest and information. Brian Goodwin and Les Frey (*Missionary Prayer Handbook*

Day 15) joined together in a session dealing with marriage and family relationships and a biblical strategy for handling resentment. Don Tinder gave us a look into the future of missions while Jean-Paul Burgat (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 11) focused our thoughts on issues relevant to Israel.

Each day began with prayer and a devotional thought for both the men and women. For me personally, it was a very special time. As our group of ladies met, there was a real sense of bonding as we prayed together with those who knew and understood the difficulties and stresses of the daily life of living in a different culture. With many years of experience on the part of some, there was real encouragement for those newer to the field. It was a harmonious time of coming to the Lord with specific needs and concerns, some of which were very difficult and heart wrenching problems. Like me, many may often think to pray for the "work" of the missionary but these prayer meetings were good reminders to focus on praying also for the daily lives, family issues and the challenges of living in a foreign country.

Several of those attending the conference have been guests at CMML over the years we have been the host/hostess. However, it was truly a blessing for Phil and I to meet and fellowship with each of these workers closer to their "place of service." To observe the depth of friendship and the obvious respect of one another was truly a privilege and we are thankful to have had the opportunity to share in this week of conference with the Christian workers of Europe. 🌹



Mary Parsons with her husband Phil are the Host/Hostess at CMML. Previously, they served at Faith Academy, Manila Philippines and are commended from Andover Bible Chapel (MA) and Oaklands Chapel, (Victoria, BC). They have three children and nine grandchildren.

