

December 2013

CHRISTIAN  
*Missions*  
IN MANY LANDS INC.

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# Thinking It Through

TOM TURNER

## The Importance of the Gift

Christmas is a special time of year for every believer as our hearts and minds focus on God's Greatest Gift to us—His only begotten Son. How could the God of the Universe love me so much that He was willing to give His Son to provide my eternal salvation? The hymn writer has said it well, "Wonderful grace of Jesus, Greater than all my sin; *How shall my tongue describe it, Where shall its praise begin?* Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free; for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me."<sup>1</sup>

Think of the promise, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."<sup>2</sup> Then remember that we are the recipients of that great Gift. Our lives have been forever changed for all eternity. Like the wise men, "When they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh."<sup>3</sup> We also have this wonderful opportunity to bring to Him our praise and thanksgiving and even our gifts.

Christmas is a time when many exchange gifts and my wife and I enjoy giving gifts to our four young grandchildren. The expression on their faces as they receive tokens of our love brings us much joy. Most times they say thank you but sometimes their mom and dad have to remind them. What an illustration for us, to remember to continually thank our God for salvation and the blessings we enjoy.

Christmas is also a time to reflect on how we came to know the Lord as our Savior. How thankful we are for those who shared the Gospel with us, whether at a very young age or later in life. Think of those faithful Sunday school teachers, youth group leaders, caring elders, family members and missionaries who prayed, then drew near and shared their faith with us. And speaking of missionaries, may I share a thought for your consideration.

At CMML and MSC Canada we have the joy of serving our missionaries every day and in many different ways. Their work

and daily lives are not easy. They have left the comforts of North America to live in another culture with the purpose of telling others about the precious gift of God's Son. These unsung heroes of the faith are on the front lines of the battle 24/7. They face the challenges of living in another culture, learning another language, educating their children and trusting the Lord to meet all their needs, including the practical ones necessary for the support of their families on the field.

It is rare that missionaries spell out their financial needs to those of us back home. But they do bring them before the Lord in prayer. From letters and emails we receive at our offices, we know how much they value you prayer warriors and deeply appreciate those special contacts from home. Email, "snail mail," telephone and Skype are a missionary's lifeline to friends and family, providing confirmation that they have not been forgotten, even though thousands of miles away. These dear servants are an extension of your local assembly and you. While we at home enjoy being greeted by the saints at the assembly on a Sunday morning, remember our missionaries would love to be there too, getting that warm handshake, or a hug with a big smile and a word of encouragement.

Christmas is a time for remembering with thanksgiving God's wonderful Gift to us. This year, as we give gifts to family and friends, may the Lord burden your heart and mine to share some of what He has entrusted to us with our brothers and sisters who are in distant lands presenting God's Perfect Gift to those who have never heard. Whether it's a phone call, a Christmas card, a small care package for the children (be sensitive to possible customs duties) or a gift to help with practical needs, be assured that as you do this as unto the Lord, the missionary families on the receiving end are encouraged and blessed.

Paul reminds us that "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."<sup>4</sup> ■

<sup>1</sup> Haldor Liffenas 1885, Hope Publishing Co.; <sup>2</sup> Matthew 1:21; <sup>3</sup> Matthew 2:11; <sup>4</sup> 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

# Finding Treasure in the DR Congo



by Robert Dadd

One of the first surprises when visiting the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to learn that it is a very large country; it's much bigger than many of us might imagine. The 11th largest country in the world, its land mass roughly equals the size of the U.S. east of the Mississippi. God has blessed this country with tremendous riches in natural resources: gold, timber (African mahogany), copper, uranium, and potash, to name only a few. In just the northeast part of the country alone, there are more than 100,000 small artisanal gold mines.

It is a country that is still battered by armed conflicts that began in the early 1960s. Some of these conflicts have arisen from internal ethnic rivalries, while others have originated from outside interests seeking to gain control of the country's great treasures.

The suffering and loss of life is staggering. It is estimated that more than 5.4 million people died between August 1998 and the official end of conflict, brokered by the UN, in July 2003.<sup>1</sup> This is more than seven percent of the estimated population of 75 million. It was the world's deadliest conflict since World War II.<sup>2</sup> Most of the victims were women, children and the elderly who died fleeing from their homes. There are still more than 20 independent armed and dangerous militias operating in the eastern part of the country. They intimidate and dominate the local population and control the riches of the area.

There is, however, treasure in the Congo that cannot be expropriated by armed militias or outside powers—the treasure of God's work in the hearts of His people. This treasure has been refined by the fire of suffering and is much more valu-

able than all the gold of all the mines in the Congo!

Mert Wolcott, former missionary in the DR Congo (*Missionary Prayer Handbook*, Day 1), Ken Switzer, CMML board member, and I were privileged to visit this country from August 5 to 12. Our weeklong visit to the Congo was centered on the regional capital city of Bunia in the northeast part of the country. This is the area where Mert and Jane Wolcott worked for approximately 17 years.

Assembly work in northeast Congo began in 1925. This work is concentrated largely in an area roughly the size of the state of Vermont. In this area there are presently 231 assemblies, plus more than 150 "prayer cells" nurtured by faithful servants, that could soon be recognized as assemblies. In addition to these, there are eight assemblies and 18 prayer cells just over the border in western Uganda. These congregations are comprised largely of Congolese refugees from past ethnic fighting in Congo.

We were able to visit six assemblies in and near the city of Bunia. We made a couple of grueling road trips (there are no paved roads in northeast Congo), one to the assembly in Aveba, 50 miles and five hours away, and another that ended with a visit to Nyankunde. Along the way we made brief stops at other assemblies as well.

We were encouraged to see the progress of the continuing reconstruction of the Nyankunde mission buildings. The mission had been abandoned and thoroughly pillaged following the savage attack of 2002 which left hundreds killed and thousands displaced. We briefly visited the brand-new hospital facility which was rebuilt with a generous gift from Samaritan's Purse.

[1] Shah, Anup. "The Democratic Republic of Congo." *Global Issues*. Aug. 21, 2010. <http://www.globalissues.org/article/87/the-democratic-republic-of-congo>. [2] Ibid

**Above photo:** Children along a Congolese road

# Aveba

## A church caught in armed conflict

In 1985 a brother named Matatia Aveluma invited Mert and Jane Wolcott to move to the village of Aveba to help start the work there. It began with prayer, Bible studies, and a medical clinic supervised by Pearl Winterburn (MPH Day 1). A small assembly was formed in 1986. The work grew and a primary school was soon built. Several other assemblies were established in this region over a 25-year period.

Ethnic fighting erupted in Aveba after the attack on Nyankunde in 2002. This resulted in much loss of life and the flight of thousands of men, women and children. A number of chapels and buildings were destroyed in those years of strife.

During our visit, we found most buildings reconstructed and the local assembly flourishing under solid local leadership. Approximately 200 to 300 meet each Lord's Day in the large chapel. They have a vibrant children's ministry as well as a medical clinic outreach. The assembly and school buildings form the core of the village.

However, a strong and well-armed militia has exercised control of the area for several years. To reach Aveba, we were required to pass through a number of their roadblocks manned with armed fighters. The local Christians are free to meet. When we met in the chapel with the elders and members of the assembly, the militia leaders were given places of prominence. We also shared a generous welcome lunch prepared by the Christians for us and the militia leaders. We learned that this is customary practice in a tribal society.

A week after we visited, the Congolese military began operations to reestablish government control of the region. As of mid-October the fighting continues. The villagers have fled and are seeking refuge in the surrounding areas—some in Nyankunde. It is estimated that this conflict has displaced more than 100,000 people from their homes. Please pray for the Christians and the people of this area as they again face the ravages of war.



Reunion in Aveba



Mert Wolcott and Matatia Aveluma embracing at Aveba



Aveba assembly

# Kindia

## Praising God with no roof

The Kindia assembly, located on the outskirts of Bunia, was established largely by refugee believers who fled there from Nyankunde and the Aveba region following the tragic 2002 events. By 2006 the assembly, which had met under a tree for some time, built a small chapel from mud bricks. However, the building was destroyed when a violent storm washed away the walls. They then made bricks and built the larger chapel (pictured right) around the original one. For the past two years approximately 300 Christians have met each Sunday—rain or shine—in that building without a finished roof. These are not

short 45-minute western-style services, but multi-hour services. We could not help but ask ourselves how good the attendance would be at our assemblies under such conditions!

Five weeks after our visit, a violent storm, accompanied by a whirlwind, struck the chapel. The roof structure was destroyed. The elders ask specifically for prayer as the Christians face the job of once again rebuilding, while at the same time they wait with great concern for word about the fighting in Aveba.

While we visited, the believers shared about their progress on publishing an updated hymnbook, and the elders sang for us. It was moving to be reminded that buildings are not important and that God delights to hear the praises of His people in all circumstances. God's treasure is in the work of the Spirit of God in His redeemed people.

# Sota

## A rebuilding church ministers to women's needs

Another assembly we visited was Sota, located among the traditional cattle-herding Hema people living on expansive grassy plains encompassed by mountains to the south and north, and the vast equatorial Ituri rainforest to the west. Before the ethnic wars of the past several years, thousands of African longhorn cattle roamed this lush grassland. During the conflicts those herds were decimated. The Hema people who had fled ethnic attacks are only now beginning to return with their few remaining cows.

The Sota assembly building still stands, though in need of some repair, along with a primary school and an impressive rural medical clinic; all serve this wide rural area. It was most encouraging to see the rebuilding work, both spiritually and physically, go forward under strong local leadership. The Christian community's needs are being considered. We were impressed and especially blessed by a group of godly women who were meeting the day of our visit to prepare for an area-wide women's conference.



**Above:** Sisters from Sota planning a regional women's meeting



**Left:** Sisters from Sota peeling cassava roots to sell



**From top:** Elders and leaders singing at the Kindia chapel; Assembly building in Kindia.

# Katanga Province

## More treasure in southern Congo

At the Pan-African Brethren Conference on Missions in Nairobi (see page 6), the week following our time in northeast Congo, we met a Congolese delegate from the Katanga province in southern Congo. This is a region 1,000 miles south of where we visited. Because of the distance and very difficult travel conditions, those working in northeast Congo have rarely had contact with these brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Lord's work in Katanga dates from the end of the 19th century. Katanga comprised part of the area in Africa known to early Brethren as "the beloved strip." This name was given to the region because of the fruitful missionary work that was carried on for many years across Angola to Zambia and southern Congo.

We learned that there are approximately 1,500 assemblies in the Katanga province. There is an active medical work in seven mission hospitals carried on by

Congolese medical personnel. The gospel message goes out and assemblies are growing.

We know that there are other assemblies in major cities elsewhere in the Congo. There are undoubtedly more assemblies of believers scattered across this vast country beyond those we visited and heard about. We know that these churches are only a small fraction of the great treasure God has among the millions of people in the Congo.

## Pray for this great land

As we reflect on our visit, we are reminded of the words of the hymn by Emma Frances Bevan:

*God has here on earth a treasure,  
None but He its price may know—  
Deep, unfathomable pleasure,  
Christ revealed in saints below.*

We must thank the Lord that in the midst of people with great needs, He has raised up gifted, well-educated godly men



and women dedicated to the task of caring for His flock and reaching out with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that the Lord will continue to send workers into this great harvest field. Pray for the leadership's preservation from attacks by the evil one. Finally, pray that peace may come to this land that has suffered so much for so many years. ■

*Robert Dadd is CMML's board president.*

**Above:** Road to Aveba

# NAIROBI, KENYA

## Pan-African Brethren Conference on Missions

by Robert Dadd

After our visit to the DR Congo (see pages 3–6), we were privileged to attend the third Pan-African Brethren Conference on Missions. The conference lasted for five days and had approximately 180 attendees from 17 countries. We enjoyed rich ministry and heard reports on the work in each country.

The conference setting provided an excellent opportunity to meet many national workers as well as missionaries engaged in missions work. Without traveling, we were able to hear reports from workers in Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. It is thrilling to hear how God is working in so many nations.

In all these countries, the job of leading, teaching and evangelization is being taken on by gifted national workers. They need our prayers and support. Not only do they face the

same trials and difficulties that the Lord's people face everywhere, but they also minister in conditions of great poverty, very difficult travel, and often unstable governments.

There is an open ear for the Gospel in Africa; however, Satan is at work as well. There are many false gospels being preached, and many are being led astray. We must pray for courage to preach "Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2) Pray for the leaders that they may be preserved in humility and dependence. Pray for unity around the person of Christ and the Word of God. ■





# Home with the Lord

## Mabel M. Gillett

*Missionary to Ireland* • August 26, 1924—March 18, 2013

My mother was born in New Hartford, Iowa, and raised in an unbelieving family. However, while Mom was in her late teens, her mother was saved after attending gospel tent meetings conducted by the late evangelist Oliver Smith. After Mom graduated valedictorian of her high school class at age 16, she went on to graduate from college in business studies. Then, at age 21, she was also saved through the preaching of Oliver Smith. Her life completely changed and she had new purpose. Her great desire was to live in such a way that her life would point others to the Savior.

When she was 23 years old, she married my father, James L. Gillett, who had been raised in a Christian home but had not trusted Christ until shortly before serving in World War II. My parents made God the focus of their new life together. They established their home in Waterloo, Iowa, where they fellowshiped at Western Avenue Gospel Hall.

My sister, Mary Kline, followed me as their second child. My earliest memories of our family are of my mother or father reading from *Egermeier's Bible Story Book* and praying before we went to bed. Mom never forgot the hymn that was sung at the tent meeting the night she was saved, "Jesus Paid It All, All to Him I Owe," and she often sung it to me as I went to sleep.

My mother loved the Lord and was a missionary at heart from the beginning of her Christian life. She told her testimony to everyone, including unsaved family members, neighbors, work colleagues, and the many visitors we had in our home. As the years went by, she praised the Lord that some friends and all her six siblings professed salvation. Even her father made a deathbed profession in his 80s.

God gave Mom a deep concern for foreign missionaries following the 1956 martyrdom of Jim Elliott and his four colleagues in Ecuador. Following that incident, Margaret Dunkerton, from Western Avenue Gospel Hall, invited the sisters from the assembly to her home for what developed into the Women's Missionary Sewing Class and Prayer Meeting. Mom became the class secretary and wrote to the missionaries to whom the class sent practical items. When I felt God's call to serve as a missionary, even though it meant abandoning my pursuit of a career in medicine, Mom and Dad encouraged me to follow the Lord. After serving on a Literature Crusades team

in 1968 and 1969, my wife Jean and I went to serve the Lord in Dublin, Ireland. That was the beginning of my parents' vital involvement in missions.

In 1977 my father was eligible to take early retirement and Mom wrote in her journal: "We decided before the Lord, after much consideration and prayer, that we would retire from secular work, while we were still young enough and able to do something practical and meaningful for the Lord, to go and serve Him in Ireland with Jim and Jean." They were commended by Western Avenue Gospel Hall to serve the Lord full-time in Ireland. They quickly immersed themselves into the ministry. Mom worked in the office, led studies with young women, counseled those who trusted Christ, and mentored young women on the short-term teams.

After God called Dad to heaven, Mom continued to serve the Lord with us in Ireland until 2009. Mom refocused back to Des Moines, Iowa, where she assisted with the assembly Women's Missionary Class and the Awana Club.

In March 2013 Mom fell and hit her head, resulting in a broken nose and facial bones. In spite of her undergoing brain surgery to remove a large hematoma, she never regained consciousness following the surgery. She went to be with the Lord on March 18, 2013. As the psalmist said, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." (Psalm 116:15)

Through her service for the Lord, from the time she trusted the Savior—in the first 31 years in the U.S., then in the 32 years in Ireland, and finally in the last four years back in the U.S.—Mom's life has touched countless people around the world.

Her service for the Lord was her lifelong expression of worship for the One who "paid it all." She owed her life to Him, and she gave it back in sacrificial service for the One whom she loved and served.

by James W. Gillett

# MK Corner

MISSIONS Magazine Chats With Missionary Kids



Esther (13), Isaiah (11) and Abigail (15)

## Interview with Abigail, Esther and Isaiah Huerta—Day 15, Romania

by Annie O'Connor

I first met Abigail, Esther and Isaiah this summer at the European Christian Workers' Conference held in Annecy, France. It was a delight to get to know these humorous and joyful children as we talked about what life is like for them on the mission field.

Their parents, Fausto and Laura (commended in 2006 by the assembly in Hillsboro, Oregon), are thrilled to see national brothers and sisters begin to lead the work in Romania, and therefore feel that the Lord is calling their family to a new location of service. Pray for the Huerta family as they make this transition. Abigail, Esther, and Isaiah realize that this move may be difficult but have positive attitudes and appreciate your prayer.

### What are your names and ages?

**Abigail:** I'm Abigail Huerta and I'm 15 years old.

**Esther:** I'm Esther Huerta and I'm 13 years old.

**Isaiah:** I'm Isaiah Huerta and I'm 18 years old! Haha, OK, I'm 11.

### When did you move to Romania?

**Abigail:** Nine years ago. I was six years old, going on seven.

**Esther:** I was four years old.

**Isaiah:** I was two.

### Do you remember moving there?

**Abigail:** I remember the train ride. It was very exhausting and we arrived really late at night. And we got to have a traditional Romanian meal.

**Esther:** I didn't like the food the first time I had it because we're not actually from Romania.

### What languages do you speak?

**Abigail:** English and Romanian and a tiny bit of Spanish.

**Isaiah:** I don't speak Romanian, I only speak English.

### Do you have friends who speak Romanian?

**All:** Yes

### Do you mostly speak to your Romanian friends and neighbors in Romanian?

**Abigail:** Yes, mostly. We have some friends who speak English, and we feel more comfortable speaking with them in English. So, it depends on the person you are speaking with.

### Tell me in your own words, what is a missionary?

**Abigail:** A missionary is someone who wants to spread the Gospel to people around the world or even in their own town—just to share the Gospel with people who do not know about Christ.

**Esther:** Or to people who do know about Christ but need to know more.

**Isaiah:** Abi got it!

### What is the best part about being an MK?

**Abigail:** Meeting new people.

**Esther:** Yeah, that's what I would say too.

### What is the hardest part of being a missionary kid?

**Abigail:** People rejecting you for your religion. Also having to say goodbye when we go to the next place and the stressfulness of what's next. Having to choose your words carefully so you don't offend people.

**Esther:** Saying goodbye to people.

### Being a missionary kid, do you feel different?

**Esther:** I don't remember not being a missionary kid, so it's hard to compare with something you don't know about.

**Abigail:** I try not to feel different, I mean, I know I am different, but when I'm talking with other people, they're human, they have their own opinion.

**Isaiah:** Definitely!

### Do you help your parents with their ministry?

**Abigail:** The last couple years, I've started being a leader at the camps. And helping with the doctors that come in, being a translator and things. I help with the Sunday school with a few other Romanians. We have a maximum of 30 kids every Sunday. The least that would come is seven.

**Esther:** I try to help out but this summer I couldn't because there are age limits and I am not baptized. I would have liked to participate more, but I didn't, so after they were done, I would help clean up and stuff.

### Do you have any hobbies or things you like to do?

**Isaiah:** Make Legos. Esther does bracelets and nails, sometimes, and Abi does hair.

**Abigail:** I want to be a hair stylist; I want to take a class in that. Actually, we have a neighbor whose hair is really long, and I do her hair a lot and she pays me sometimes... not very much, like for ice cream, but it's a starting point.

**Esther:** She cuts a lot of the peoples' hair and does stuff with it, which is cool. I do origami and I like to make bracelets.

### Describe your schooling.

**Abigail:** We're home-schooled. We use Sonlight Curriculum. I'm entering 11th grade so this next year is going to be confusing. I'm taking a class that will give me college credit, so that should be useful. I am going to have a lot of exams coming up. In general, I like home schooling.

**Esther:** I'm going into ninth grade, which is high school, so it will be different. I will do more of the work on my own this year, so it's going to be a lot of work.

**Isaiah:** I'm going into seventh grade.

### How long have you been coming to the European Christian Workers' Conference?

**Abigail:** Six years.

### Tell me a little about this conference.

**Abigail:** The people here are great. You feel so safe with them; you can talk about anything without being shy.

**Esther:** Because most of the kids here are missionary kids, we are able to relate with each other more than with other kids.

**Abigail:** We can joke around and they won't be offended, and stuff like that.

### Is there anything you want people to know about you, or anything you'd like to add?

**Abigail:** Leaving Romania is going to be hard.

**Esther:** Very hard!

**Isaiah:** Very, very hard!

**Esther:** Adapting to a new place...

**Abigail:** And a new culture, different people...

### Do you have any prayer requests?

**Isaiah:** For me, concentration, in school and in what my mom and dad are doing. And God's work.

**Abigail:** The language—we need help with the language.

**Esther:** We will always need help with the language!

### Learning another language?

**Abigail:** Yes, and not forgetting Romanian. I do not want to forget Romanian. It might be useful.

**Esther:** I do not want to forget Romanian either. ■

# Update on the Philippines

## SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN

by Philip Parsons

As of November 15, 2013, the official death toll of 3,621 is expected to climb. More than 9.8 million Filipinos have been affected by the typhoon, and many have lost their homes. Blocked roads in the hardest hit areas make it extremely difficult to bring in greatly needed supplies including food, water and medicine.

Guiuan, in eastern Samar, was hit hard. Five days after the storm, CMML learned that Paul and Gerrah Kulikovsky, Australian missionaries who serve in this area, are alive but report that the assembly building and many believers' homes and property sustained damage. With grateful hearts to the Lord, no loss of life has been reported from the assembly.

CMML missionaries Patrick and Karen Carder were in Romblon preparing their home in anticipation of relocating soon and are safe as well.

CMML and MSC Canada have sent disaster relief funds to the Philippines under the control and administration of CMML missionary David Harvey. Additionally, we have opened accounts to process donations and help Filipino believers rebuild their lives and enable the assembly work to continue to proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

Follow CMML and MSC Canada on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates. Your prayers for the Philippines are greatly appreciated. ■

## DONATE TO THE PHILIPPINES DISASTER RELIEF FUND

Checks should be marked with the suggestion "Philippine Disaster Relief" and made out to **CMML** (American donors) or to **MSC Canada** (Canadian donors). Online contributions may be made on each organization's website or by following the links or scanning the QR codes below.



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(Select Typhoon Haiyan Relief Fund under Projects & Funds)



### Giving from the U.S.:

[CMML.us/donation/842](http://CMML.us/donation/842)

# A TEENAGE Missionary

My Experience Serving the Lord as an MK



by **Rebekah**

When my dad first sat our family down and said that we should start to pray about moving from Wisconsin to a native village in Alaska, I was horrified at the thought. At 12 years old, the idea of losing my friends, school opportunities, family, and much more was daunting. Living in the wilderness? “The Last Frontier” was the *last* place I wanted to be. As a teenager, the “This is the end of my life!” scenario rang out for two years.

My parents were strong and pointed to where they saw God’s call. They emphasized the importance of God’s love and our obedience to His leading even when it is not easy. Looking back, I am so thankful my parents did not use their children as an excuse to not go on the mission field. Emphasizing our role in ministry spurred us toward our own responsibilities and our ministry in Alaska.

I can still hear it. The rumbling of the bush plane rang in my ears as we flew into the tribal village. My parents dreamed of doing missionary work in the unreached parts of Alaska, but they were stonewalled in many of the villages. Distrust for “outsiders” is strong in these villages. Thus, many adults are unwelcome. However, God chose to use me at only 14 years old.

I posed less of a threat as a younger girl. The leaders allowed me to enter their village with two of my teenage friends to host a Child Evangelism Fellowship club. The rest of my family stayed behind, living in a more open Alaskan village. God was moving! Through this opportunity, He softened the hearts of the village elders so much so that they began to let other believers come into the village.

Two years later, God ordained a small church where they allowed a pastor to fly in regularly to the village to encourage the new believers. The Lord had a plan for that village since the beginning of time. His plan would have been accomplished with or without us. However, it speaks volumes to me that He chose to use us as teenagers, those considered “one of the least of these,” to form the beginnings of a ministry.

My parents empowered me as a child and fostered a childhood where my main focus was on serving others. Growing up in this environment, I gained world experience which has given me focus and passion as an adult. The obedience of my

parents to God’s call on their lives not only impacted me as I discovered God’s plan for my life, but their obedience allowed God to use me as a 14-year-old girl for His kingdom.

I am grateful that my parents started a legacy of following the Lord wherever He has called, including Mexico, Alaska, and Special Areas. A legacy where, no matter the sacrifice, we as a family would follow the Lord. In my mind, there is no better way to grow up. ■

*Rebekah is in fellowship at Bible Truth Chapel, Wisconsin, and West Side Bible Fellowship, Oregon, and is pursuing higher education in preparation for the mission field.*

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# A CHILD Missionary

## Kids Can Help on the Mission Field

by Willi and Beatrice Gyger

**W**e recently wrote down some of our early experiences on the mission field. The thought came to us that the following incident may be an encouragement to others, particularly missionaries and children. This story happened in French Guiana, South America, circa 1965. May it be to the glory of God.

### A child doing what an adult cannot

Eight or nine believers were doing door-to-door work in the small village of Iracoubo, in French Guiana many years ago. We were just about at the end of our busy Saturday, and many people had accepted our tracts and even bought some Bibles or New Testaments from us.

Mother Bea called our children together and told them to get ready to go back home to Cayenne about 130 Km away. Our daughter, Debbie, noticed at a distance down the road what she thought was an older woman. She ran to give her one of our evangelical tracts. The person accepted the tract from her.

It turned out that it was the old village priest, who wore a long black robe. He had previously, on many occasions, forbidden his parishioners to accept tracts from the "evangelicals," as we were called. These papers were heretical and not good for Catholics. Many people in the village noticed that he had accepted the tract from little six-year-old Debbie.

The following morning at the 6 o'clock Mass in the Catholic church he explained to his people:

*You know that the evangelicals were all over the village yesterday. Some of you saw that I accepted a gospel tract from them. You probably also noticed that it was a little innocent child who brought it to me. I just could not refuse this innocent little girl. So I took the tract into my pocket. In my home, I read the tract, and I realized that it was a good and clear message from the Gospel, and I realized that this paper can do you no harm. So, from now on, when these evangelicals from Cayenne come around, I do permit you to accept their literature. These papers may be good for your spiritual life and bring you closer to God.*



### A growing work

If an adult had offered him one of our tracts, he would have refused it. But God used this innocent little child to reach the priest and through him, the village population. There is now a small assembly with a nice chapel in the village of Iracoubo. Praise the Lord! ■

*Willi and Beatrice Gyger are refocused missionaries to French Guiana commended by the assembly in Union City, New Jersey. They currently reside in Hummelstown, Pennsylvania.*

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# MAY WE INTRODUCE

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## Charles & Asia Corbin Missionaries to Niger



### Charles' testimony

I was born into a family of believers. From as far back as I can remember, my parents took me to church and taught the Scriptures to me at home. One night, at the age of six, I realized the truth of these stories. I was a sinner, condemned to hell, but there was a Savior, one without sin, who died for me. I remember lying in bed that night excited that I had put my trust in the Savior, the One who had taken my punishment. Now I could truly rest in Him, the weight of sin and guilt removed.

As I reached my mid-teenage years I took my eyes off the Lord and chose to walk my own path, away from Him. After a few years I realized the emptiness of a life lived for me. I wanted something more; I knew that what I wanted could only be found through a life in fellowship with my Savior. The Lord graciously brought me back to Himself. What a wonderful Savior we have!

### Asia's testimony

I grew up in a Christian home with parents who were very involved at our local church. When I was five years old I realized that I was a sinner and that meant I was separated from God. My parents helped me to understand that I needed to place my faith in Jesus Christ to save me. I did that and was baptized soon after. God started to work on my heart right away. From an early age I was burdened for the lost, especially those who have no access to the Gospel. I can vividly remember sobbing as a little girl because children were going to enter eternity without hearing about Jesus. As I grew, this passion never faded. God

placed Africa on my heart in my early teenage years. I wanted to do anything I could to prepare spiritually and practically for the mission field. I attended Emmaus Bible College to study the Bible for a year in 2005, and I graduated from nursing school in 2009. I wanted to have a practical way to show love as I shared the Gospel with the lost. I am thankful for the Lord's constant leading in my life. My prayer is that He will use the life He has given me to bring glory to His name.

### Together

Asia and I met in our early teenage years when we started to attend the same assembly. We remained good friends and eventually began dating in 2008. The Lord burdened us with proclaiming the Gospel to those that had never heard and led us to serve Him on the mission field. Asia knew that the Lord was leading her to Africa, but it took the Lord working in my heart to confirm that this was His plan for me. We got married in 2011 and were counseled by a missionary couple to wait at least a year before moving to another country. We decided to continue to seek the Lord about where He would have us and to be more involved at our local assembly. Exactly one year later, while on a camping trip for our anniversary, the Lord laid the country of Niger on both our hearts. He has graciously opened and closed doors and given us clear direction through His Word and much prayer, along with the fellowship of other believers. The Lord is so good and we are thankful that we can be a part of His work in Niger. ■

## 2013 TAX RECEIPTS

December gifts to CMML and MSC Canada will receive a receipt for 2013 income tax returns if they are postmarked by December 31, 2013.

## HOLIDAY NOTICE

The CMML office will be closed December 25-27, 2013, and January 1-3, 2014. The MSC Canada office will be closed December 25, 2013 through January 1, 2014.

# God's Work in *Haiti*

by Rob Lindsted and Ron Pitschmann

*Editor's Note: The devastating earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, 2010, touched the hearts of many of the Lord's people, who forwarded gifts to CMML to be used for disaster relief efforts. The following story recaps how some funds were used to help with the construction of a school to provide education for the children, while at the same time presenting the Gospel. (Please note: CMML's Haiti Disaster Relief Fund is now closed.)*

Our first school in Camp Perrin is about to start its second year. We began at this location with the frame of a cinder block building already in place. The roof was added to the building as well as doors and a floor. We then divided the space into classrooms. Enrollment began with about 45 students in two grades and is now up to 117. We feed the students and workers one meal a day. For some, it is the only meal they have all day. We've seen great progress in the students' academic performance and excitement for others to join the school. In addition to academics, what has really made a difference is the chance to teach them the Bible every day!

This summer, we were able to take four students from Sunrise Christian Academy in Kansas to visit the schools in Haiti. We witnessed the children reciting Scripture verses, singing Christian songs, and already beginning to read and write. Desks were built, uniforms were sewn, and curriculum and supplies have all been added to provide the best possible Christian education offered in the area.

Even though the building at the second location in St. Michel is not yet complete, we have started two adult classes there. Once the building is finished, classes for the children will begin in January. We brought several sewing machines in our suitcases from the U.S. that are being used to teach a skill to the adults. The women pictured are learning to cut out material and sew school uniforms for the children. Future plans include providing computers and additional school curriculum for upper grade levels.

The new facility in St. Michel includes two rooms that can be used for classrooms and has living spaces for teachers or adult students. It also has a nice kitchen and several bathrooms and showers. The building sits on approximately three acres, so we have plenty of room for growth in this densely populated area.

Our goal in Haiti is to help people move forward from the devastation caused not only by the earthquake, but the long cycle of poverty and despair. We plan to do this by educating as many children as we can, by teaching the adults a skill, and by spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to all! ■

*Rob Lindsted and his wife Sharon are commended to full-time Christian service by Community Bible Chapel, Wichita, Kansas. Ron Pitschmann and his wife Peggy are also in fellowship with Community Bible Chapel, Wichita, Kansas.*

**Top three photos:** School children. **Bottom two photos:** Women learning to sew.



# MAY WE INTRODUCE



## Kristina Howell—Missionary to Peru

I teach English to Peruvian children at Strong Tower Christian School in Ferreñafe, Peru. I also help at Morning Star Children's Home, located on the same compound as the school.

Ever since I was a little girl, I dreamed about working in an orphanage. I wanted to work with children who didn't have the blessing of growing up in a Christian family as I did. I wanted to give them all the love I could, but more importantly, I desired the chance to share the love of Christ with them. For this reason I decided to get my degree in Early Childhood Education.

I was first led to serve in Peru in the summer of 2009. A friend of mine had learned about the ministry opportunities through CMML, and she planned to spend 10 weeks as a volunteer teacher at Strong Tower, in addition to helping at the children's home. When she told me about this opportunity, she happened to mention that her mother was concerned that she

didn't have someone to travel with. When I mentioned all this to my mom, she suggested that maybe the Lord would have me to be that traveling companion. After spending time in prayer, I felt that the Lord was showing me that He did want me to spend that summer in Peru. To make a long story short, after spending 10 weeks in Peru in 2009, I felt that the time was much too short. I fell in love with the family at Morning Star, my students, and the culture itself. The next summer I returned again, this time for 12 weeks. In 2013 the Lord graciously paved the way for me to return once again. I committed to teaching for a year, at the time not being certain of whether or not the Lord would have me there for longer than that. However, not too much time passed before I decided that, if it was the Lord's will, and if I was able to be helpful, I would like to stay for a more indefinite amount of time. And here I am today by the grace of God!

Pray for Strong Tower and the 190 students that attend. Pray that the Lord will give me opportunities to get to know the families and to be a shining light for Him. ■



## Christina Gagnon—Missionary to Zambia

For me, it has never really been a matter of whether or not God would call me to His work abroad but rather, when, where and how. I came to know Christ as Savior at age nine in my parents' home in Midland, Ontario. When I was about

13 years old, missionaries came to Waverly Gospel Hall to give a report on their work among orphanages in Romania. The idea of so many children wasting away without anyone to love them was heartbreaking, and I told God that if He wanted, I would go and love children for Him and tell them about Jesus' love.

This was in the back of my mind as a teenager and helped guide many of the decisions I made, including my career choice of nursing. Nursing has become an opportunity to show God's love by building a helping, trusting relationship with patients, families and colleagues. One of my friends had gone to Sakeji School to teach, and through her letters my awareness of the needs in Zambia developed. At the end of my nursing program I traveled to Kalene Mission Station for a three-month period and during this time became interested in specializing in wound management. I returned to Toronto

General Hospital, where I worked at the time, eager to learn more about this field of nursing.

Two years after visiting Kalene, I returned to visit Chitokoloki Mission Station and spent a great deal of time assisting with managing complex wounds. Wound management is often an arduous journey for the patient and requires a supportive relationship with the health care provider. The opportunity to share God's love during a critical time in peoples' lives through the vehicle of wound management excites me. After praying on the plane home specifically about the location God would have me to serve Him, I received a beautiful promise from Joshua 1:9, "The Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

I am very excited to travel now to Chitokoloki Mission to assist in whatever capacity is needed, but specifically with patients who struggle with wounds and with the children in the area. I hope to develop relationships with both the patients and the children to tell them about our loving God who is the Great Physician, the Binder of wounds, and the Father of the fatherless. I appreciate prayers for language learning, to be able to connect with my patients, for wisdom and perceptiveness to identify needs and solutions, and especially for grace to pour out God's love. ■



# Emmaus India: A MISSIONS MODEL

by Jim Fleming

India's history is as exotic, colorful and intricate as its beautiful and diverse population groups that coexist, speaking countless languages on this subcontinent teeming with nearly a fifth of the world's population. Emmaus Correspondence School (ECS) in India was started in 1950 by New Zealander Miss Shertliff. From that small start in her Emmaus Book Room on a dusty street in Kumbanad, Kerala, to today's distribution in 20 of the 28 states in 14 of the 21 major languages, the growth of Emmaus ministries in India has been tremendous—although often tough, tedious and even treacherous.

In what way is Emmaus in India a missions model? It's in the simple fact of who is running Emmaus 60 years into its history. We praise the Lord for those early western missionaries who used Emmaus in their evangelism and church growth ministries. But here's the key: when sister Shertliff retired from Kumbanad, she had trained Indian brother E. M. Thomas based in Angamally, Kerala. He capably ran the Malayalam work for many years and then handed it over to a third-generation leader. This new leader, **Dr. K. C. Johnson**, has his doctorate in theology and is the principal of a Bible institute in Kerala. He is not only seeing Malayalam Emmaus courses being used in numbers as never before, but he has also taken on the distribution of English courses going out all over India.

Sister Shertliff worked herself out of a job. She trained a national and moved on. Then, when the new director got on in years, he made sure the ministry was handed to a person more capable than himself. It mimics Pauline methodology. The great missionary apostle never settled down and built ministries around himself. He never possessed a ministry; He always looked for replacements to train.

From being quite dependent, ECS USA has trained and transitioned Emmaus India to now have their own board of directors. This board now makes all the decisions about leaders, teams, schools, distribution, printing schedules, promotion and everything that goes into running a program that reaches thousands of Bible students each year. Are there growing pains along the way? Many. Are there times I want to step in

and tell them a better way to do it from my perspective? Unfortunately, yes. Will they make mistakes or do things less than efficiently at times? Maybe, but don't we all?

On my last trip in India, I observed examples of this model at work. **Santosh Thomas** is the principal of the Bengal Bible Training Institute in the northern state of Jharkhand. Hinduism dominates the north of India, often in extreme forms. Hindi is spoken here and Santosh has risen to the huge task of getting our Hindi courses published and sent to Emmaus centers in multiple states. Santosh reaches out to 1,100 Hindu children in their K-12 school, resulting in their wide acceptance and protection in the region. **K. C. Jacob** worked in the gulf states most of his career life. He now volunteers his retirement years to the Lord's work as our National Coordinator in Bangalore. He has never been this busy as he communicates with each language ministry, travels, coordinates printing, looks to open new language ministries and seeks Indian contacts willing to sponsor the ministry.

The examples can go on and on. Models can be fragile; they can even break. Pray for Emmaus India as it joins forces with the local assemblies to get people studying the Word for themselves. ■



*Jim and Sharon Fleming are commended by the assemblies in Maywood, Illinois, and Cupertino, California.*

**From top:** Women carrying cow dung; Emmaus courses; Emmaus training session; (L-R) K. C. Jacob, Jim Fleming, and Santosh Thomas.

