

# Missions

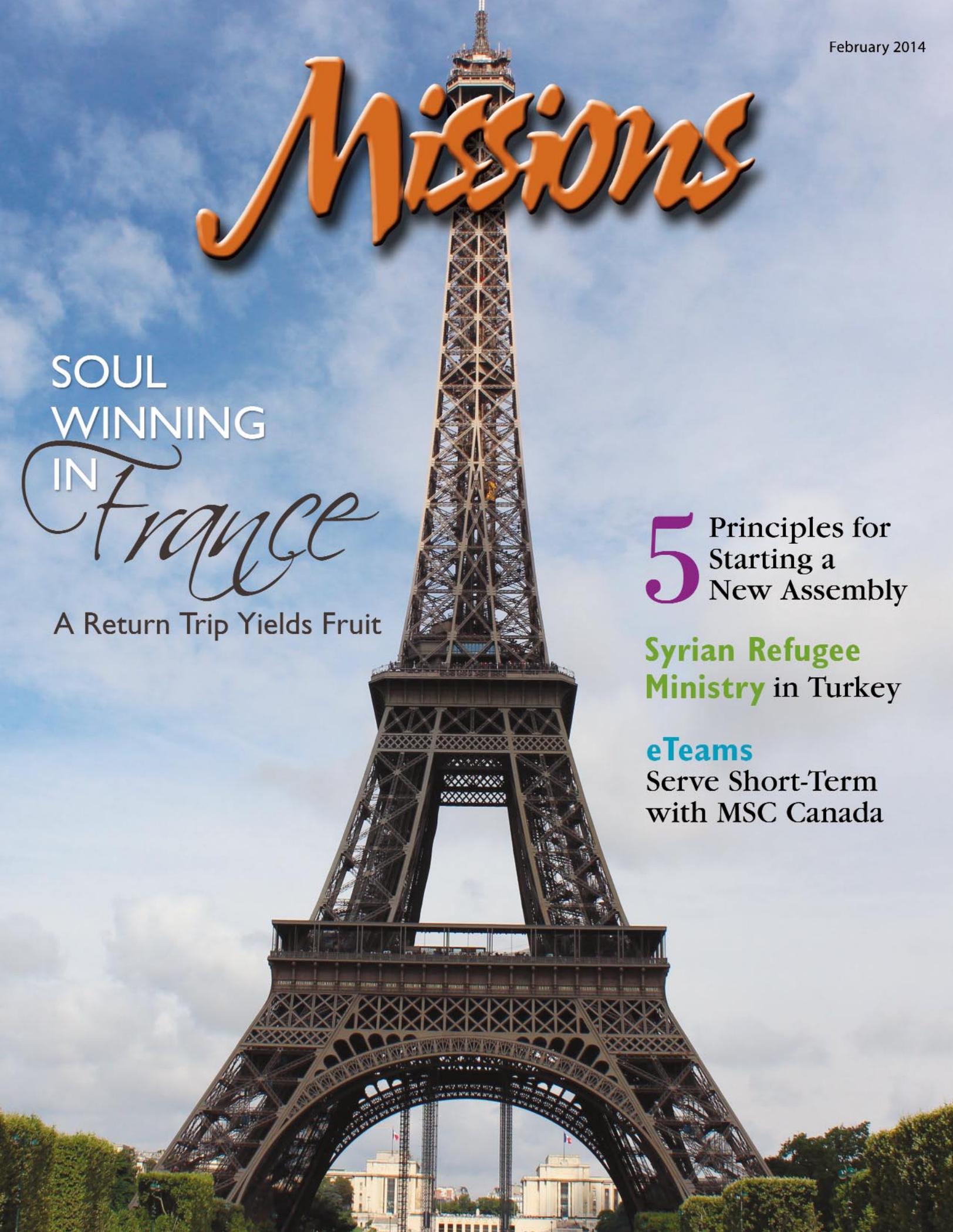
SOUL  
WINNING  
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**5** Principles for  
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# Thinking It Through

KEN FLEMING

## The Optimism of Gospel Outreach

During His ministry in Galilee, Jesus began to encounter opposition from the Jewish leaders who rejected the possibility that He could be the promised Messiah. They were jealous that so many of the common people were seriously listening to His teaching. The people had repented and believed in the Gospel as they had been instructed.<sup>1</sup> They believed that He was indeed the Messiah, but the Jewish leaders (the Scribes and the Pharisees) rejected Him and opposed Him. Jesus' disciples could not understand how the kingdom could come when Jesus was in controversy with Pharisees. The controversy came to a climax when the Pharisees accused Him of casting out demons by the power of Satan.<sup>2</sup> He told them that God's judgment of the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah would be more tolerable than His judgment of the Galilean cities that had rejected Him. Then He followed His message of judgment with a message of grace, that those who truly believed in Him were His brothers and sisters, delighting to do His will, not by keeping a rule of law, but to please their Lord.<sup>3</sup>

### A New Phase of the Kingdom

The coming of the kingdom in its external form would be put on hold. Until that time there would be a new phase of the kingdom that would be internal and relational, rather than external as they had understood from the prophets. To explain the new phase Jesus told them seven parables, one after the other, that He called the "mysteries of the kingdom."<sup>4</sup> The "mysteries" revealed in these parables were elements of the kingdom in this new phase that had not been revealed by the prophets. It would begin when Jesus ascended to heaven and would continue until He returned to earth in His glory to physically rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem in fulfillment of the prophecies.<sup>5</sup>

### The Parable of the Leaven

The fourth parable is called the Parable of the Leaven.<sup>6</sup> In it, the lady of the house inserted a small amount of leaven in a large lump of bread dough. In time, the leaven would work its way through the whole lump until it was all leavened (had risen) and was ready for the oven. This common process happened every day in every Jewish home where bread was the

staple food. Jesus used it to teach that the kingdom of God is like leaven. Jesus would leave the tiny minority of believers in the world through whom the Gospel would permeate like leaven until the whole world is reached.

The last 2,000 years have revealed the unfolding of this process by witnesses (beginning at Pentecost) who have shared the Gospel with unbelievers until a large portion of the world has heard it. The Gospel has continued to permeate the massive lump of dough which is the world of people. Some in the city of Thessalonica complained about Paul and his companions: "These men have turned the world upside down."<sup>7</sup> The leaven was already working. This leavening has continued for 2,000 years.

Starting with 120 disciples in Jerusalem at Pentecost, millions across the world have been influenced by the Gospel. The world has been leavened in dramatic ways. An immense portion of all the social advances, welfare, education, medical and jurisprudence systems in the world has been deeply influenced by the spread of the leaven of the Gospel. The parable of the leaven is optimistic, a parable of great hope. God uses His people as witnesses to touch those around them. And the result goes deeper than the social, material and legal needs of the people. It is the answer to their spiritual need of a relationship with God that brings peace and salvation in the short term, and life forever in His presence. To be a part of what He is doing in the world, knowing its glorious conclusion, ought to fill us with optimism every time we give witness of His grace both by our lives and our verbal testimony.

**Afterword:** Some have taught that the leaven in Scripture refers to evil and is so used consistently in Scripture. It is better to see that leaven speaks simply of permeation or spreading influence. It is not an illustration of evil, but of permeation. Nor does leaven have theological meaning. When God commanded Jews at the Feast of Pentecost to offer leavened bread as a sacrifice to Him of the "firstfruits to the Lord," it could not refer to evil.<sup>8</sup> ■

<sup>1</sup> Mark 1:15; <sup>2</sup> Matthew 12:24; <sup>3</sup> Matthew 12:46-50;  
<sup>4</sup> Matthew 13:1-52, cf. v. 11; <sup>5</sup> e.g. Isaiah 11; <sup>6</sup> Matthew 13:33;  
<sup>7</sup> Acts 17:6; <sup>8</sup> Leviticus 23:17



# SOUL WINNING IN *France*

A Return Trip  
Yields Fruit

BY PAUL HORNBY HOWLAND

**T**here is no greater joy than leading someone to Christ. I have never seen so many French men and women ready to listen to the Lord as I did this past August and September. The Lord answered many prayers as I returned to my house in the Bourbonnais countryside to take up where my wife Faith and I had left off because of her cancer. She is now in heaven, but the Seed we sowed is taking root in hearts and the harvest is ready.

### Travel evangelism

From the time I boarded the first plane and found myself next to a woman open to questions about her faith, to the last flight back to Arizona that ended in prayer with the man next to me, I saw God doing what only He can do! My little website about the Bible's message had to be expanded with four French pages; it now includes summaries of all 66 books of the Bible. I found people happy to receive a business card with the Web address ([AZBible.yolasite.com.fr](http://AZBible.yolasite.com.fr)). One man went right to it on his smart phone in front of me.

### Build up believers

I had the opportunity to visit believers whom we had led along the way in years past. One was a young lady who married a believer in the Lord. I was able to attend the wedding and praise God for His work. Others needed a visit to encourage them in their walk with the Lord and His Church. One couple in the village near my house asked me to show them how to share the Gospel with others. So I invited a number of people in the area to this couple's home. The Lord opened hearts week after week. It was a joy to see the young believers "catch the flame" for evangelism and plan to carry on without me.

“France needs  
those who can  
**WIN SOULS  
FOR CHRIST**”

- P.H.H.



**From top:** Notre Dame (two photos by Annie O'Connor); Group listening to the Word.

## Preach the Word

Although my focus was on soul winning, it was an honor to preach the Word of God in assemblies that invited me. That will be my focus on my next trip, March through May of this year. There is a great need to teach good Bible study methods and expository preaching. We need a revival in New Testament principles.

## Personally share the Gospel

I believe “each one bring one” is God’s favorite method. Jesus often did one-on-one evangelism. He sowed the Seed in big meetings, but he reaped one-by-one because salvation is a personal affair. In France, more than in many other countries, we need an army of personal workers.

I was happy to see open hearts when I made my surprise visits. I teased people saying, “I want to be like my Lord who will show up one day without any warning. Are you ready to meet Him?” It was good to go over the Gospel: that Christ died for our sins and rose, saving those who trust Him. As I visited students to whom Faith taught English, I reminded them that she was ready to meet the Lord. “Are you?” Every time, I saw tears come to their eyes. It was a joy to pray with two of them.

## Make disciples

One woman told me, “I have been a success at my profession but a failure in my personal life.” I was able to tell her the Good News that we all need salvation from sin and its consequences. Calling on the One who made us and then died to save us is the only way out of sin’s ravages. She agreed to meet with a sister in the Lord from the assembly who was willing to help her become a disciple of Christ.

I brought another woman to visit a sister in the Lord who was bedridden in the hospital after a knee operation. This sister is continuing the work of leading her to the Lord. They were both excited about the new friendship and have seen each other since I left.

## What’s next?

The Lord made it very clear that He wants me to spend six months per year in France. As He provides, I will spend March through May teaching in French assemblies. To give you an idea of the biblical study methods I will be teaching, you can visit my website in English at [AZBible.yolasite.com](http://AZBible.yolasite.com). During this springtime in France, I will give a tour of the assembly work in Paris, Lyon, the Provence and Bourbon France. The dates are March 10 to 16, 2014, during the Emmaus Bible College spring break. The purpose is to help students and others see if the Lord’s gifts and calling to serve Him are leading to France. All the details are on my missions-focused website, [Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/spring-trip-to-france](http://Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/spring-trip-to-france).

## France needs the Gospel

As one of the highest consumers of drugs for depression, double the rate of suicides over Spain and England, and births outside of marriage well over the European average, France is in trouble. Although the number of believers is growing slowly, the population is growing faster. There is less than one assembly per 650,000 people. Thousands of communities still have no Gospel-preaching church of any kind.

France needs those who can win souls for Christ more than it needs church leaders or teachers. It is not enough to shuffle believers around from church to church by having more attractive programs than others. We need to pray for and support those who are real soul winners. My heart's cry is for a new generation to hear the Lord's call to be workers in the field of France. It will mean commitment and sacrifice, but what better way to spend your life?

## Summer internship

Next summer, June through August, in Phoenix, Arizona, I look forward to having four young men come from Emmaus Bible College to pioneer a new work.

This is putting into practice what they have learned about the power of the Gospel in soul winning. It is tough to start from zero, but that is the best training for their future at home or abroad. Perhaps the Lord will call some of them to France! To learn more, visit: [Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/summer-internship-in-phoenix](http://Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/summer-internship-in-phoenix).

## Fall mission to France

This fall, September through November, Lord willing, I will be back in France for personal soul winning. There are many more people I know and have been leading to the Lord, but who have not yet received Him. I need your prayers for the Lord to prepare them, as well as me, for this important "rendezvous." This is the most intense part of my ministry. The field is ready to harvest but the Prince of this world is not going to let go without a fight. Only God can convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Only God can save a soul. But the Bible says, "He who is wise wins souls." (Proverbs 11:30) I want to be like John the Baptist who prepared the way and removed the obstacles for people to meet Christ. Will you pray with me for a harvest of souls?

## Assemblies in North America

Six months of the year I will be available for ministry on missions in your assembly. I travel by car and bring a table about CMML and its services.

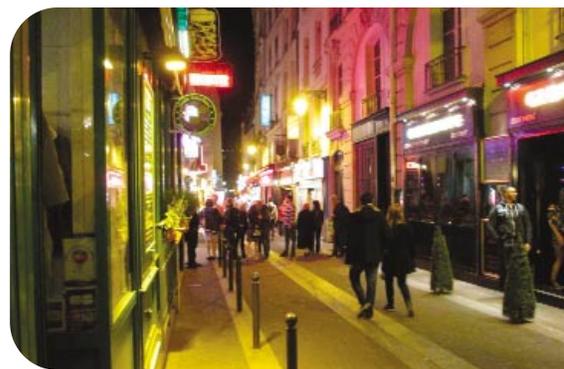
It is a joy for me to teach on soul winning from the Bible: Jesus' methods and how you can put them into practice in your community. The Lord has put it on my heart to say "come over and help us" to a new generation of missionaries both at home and abroad.

## Keep in touch

In this electronic age of rapid communication, we missionaries often find it difficult to find the time to keep up. So I have made a website for the latest news (usually once a month) that you can visit at your convenience. Here is the address: [Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/latest-news](http://Pass4Missions.yolasite.com/latest-news). You can look around the site and find tools for missions and your own personal soul winning. There is a "contact" page if you want to leave me a note. ■



*Paul Howland was commended in 1981 by the assembly in Warwick, Rhode Island.*



**From top:** St. Pierre Yzeure; Latin Quarter of Paris; Assembly entrance; Paul with two contacts in France.



# CHURCH PLANTING

## 5 principles for starting a new assembly

BY BRAD AND CATHERINE DICKSON

**W**hen you're 55, you think harder and differently about church planting than when you were 25 years old!

Over the past 30 years my wife Catherine and I have helped three works grow from the planting stage to full autonomy. That means it takes approximately 10 years for a church to grow in France. That also means we don't have many bullets left in our gun for future targets!

Scripture, research, experience, reflection and prayer have led us to five convictions about church planting.

### 01

**Multiplication is better than addition.**

**“Commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others...”  
(2 Timothy 2:2)**

Time is short. We don't just want to plant another church. We want to train others to plant new churches! Our strategy aims at multiplication. Our tool is a two-year internship program for church planters.

As we plant our church, we pray for God-sent teammates who will come alongside to help, but also to observe, study and be coached. We will use a church-planting course that has been created in Germany and is bearing fruit. During their second year, the trainees plan their own church plant by studying a new target city within less than an hour's drive. They recruit their own team members and gather prayer and support. A few cycles of this program should create several new churches close enough geographically to work together in a network.

Please pray the Lord will send us potential church planters willing to learn.

### 02

**Teamwork is better than going it alone.**

**“It is extremely rare that people come to Christ alone without having been in contact with a group of Christians.”**



You don't need a doctorate in missiology to conclude that the book of Acts shows the apostles working together in teams. We were foolishly and dangerously alone for several years in our first church-planting project.

But teamwork isn't just safer—it's more productive! It is extremely rare that people come to Christ alone without having been in contact with a group of Christians. The vast majority of conversions occur when those who are seeking are brought into contact not only with God's Word and a missionary but also with a community of believers living out the Gospel in a visible, authentic way. A team is a living cell, capable of reproducing, of drawing others to Christ. Our new project is a team project.

Please pray for teammates sent by the Lord, willing to live out the Gospel together.

**From top:** An assembly we helped in the Grenoble area for the last seven years; Evangelistic meeting at the Church in Meylan.

# 03

**A mixed team of “tent makers” and full-time missionaries is better than a team comprised uniquely of full-time missionaries.**



**“As missionaries we see ourselves in a supporting role, helping ordinary people plant a church.”**

The New Testament does not show us a model of teams composed uniquely of financially-supported missionaries. Think of how precious Priscilla and Aquila were to Paul. He owed them his very life!<sup>1</sup> They housed and helped at least three different churches.<sup>2</sup> Even if there were enough financial resources to support a large team (and there aren't) it wouldn't be a good idea to do so. People in the target city would wonder how all these people live. Full-time missionaries have trouble meeting people and making friends. Professionals have natural, daily contacts with non-believers. As missionaries we see ourselves in a supporting role, helping ordinary people plant a church.

Please pray the Lord will send us several “tent making” missionaries.

# 04

**A mixed team of missionaries and nationals is better than a team of missionaries.**

**“As team members from different cultures love one another and accept, forgive, and overcome cultural barriers for the sake of the Gospel, people are drawn to Christ.”**

Teams in the book of Acts were multicultural. Paul was from Cilicia and Barnabus from Cyprus.<sup>3</sup> Team members with Paul in Macedonia were Roman, Greek, Asian, and Jewish.<sup>4</sup> Missionaries need nationals to understand cultural clues and to network with the target population. Nationals sometimes need the training, experience and time missionaries might have. As team members from different cultures love one another and accept, forgive, and overcome cultural barriers for the sake of the Gospel, people are drawn to Christ.

Please pray God will give us a culturally mixed team.

# 05

**Evangelizing and training young people is more effective than evangelizing and training older people.**



**“The Good News is for everyone!”**

We know that Paul sought out people like Timothy. Statistics show that the vast majority of those who come to faith do so before the age of 25. After that, career, marriage, children, and materialism seem to settle people into a rut that hardens them to the Gospel. Those who do come to Christ later on often have difficulty integrating the new habits necessary to become effective servants of the Gospel.

This is not to say, of course, that we should only evangelize the young. The Good News is for everyone! But for years we have observed that teens and students are the most open age group in France. Just think of all the spiritual fruit that camp ministry has produced around the world. We have chosen a city with a large university and have found living space right on the campus.

Please pray that God will provide and open doors in our search for a facility which will serve as a drop-in center for students. ■



*Brad and Catherine Dickson were commended in 1985 by the assemblies in Saskatoon, SK, and Assiniboia, Winnipeg, MB, Canada.*

<sup>1</sup> Romans 16:4; <sup>2</sup> Corinth (Acts 18:3), Ephesus (Acts 18:18), Rome (Romans 16:3);

<sup>3</sup> Paul (Acts 21:39), Barnabus (Acts 4:36); <sup>4</sup> Acts 20:4

Photos by Brad Dickson, Matt Glock, Aymeric Tarrisse, Reynald Kozycki, Pascal Herrmann and Aurélien Lang.

**From top (L-R):** Teammates for new church planting project in Aix—Philippe and Marie-Christine Perrilliat; Aurélien Georgel; David Deloffre; Student center in Grenoble; Students having fun.

# MK Corner

MISSIONS Magazine Chats With Missionary Kids

## Interview with the Luibrand children—Day 16, Serbia

BY ANNIE O'CONNOR



Katie (3), Joseph (7), David (11), Peter (1), William (9)

While attending a missionary conference, I sat down with the four older Luibrand children to hear their perspective of life on the mission field. Commended by the assembly in Stevensville, Montana, their parents, Steve and Jenny, serve in Serbia. These polite and caring children have a loving relationship with each other and clearly enjoy their friendship.

### What is Serbia like?

**David:** Sometimes it's pretty hot. Where we live it's just plains and fields.

**William:** Yeah, it's a bit hotter and there are fields outside the village, and lots of farmers.

**Joseph:** There are not many mountains. I think there is only one mountain—Frška Gora.

**Katie:** It's sort of pretty.

### What languages do you speak?

**David:** English and Serbian.

**Joseph:** I try to speak Serbian, but sometimes I don't really know what they are saying.

### Do you think in English or Serbian?

**David:** Sometimes I think in English and in Serbian.

**William:** Most of the time in English, but at soccer club, if the coach is talking, I think in Serbian.

### Can you count to 10 in Serbian for me?

**All:** jedan, dva, tri, četiri, pet, šest, sedam, osam, devet, deset.

### What is a missionary?

**David:** It's a person who goes to another country and preaches the Gospel.

**William:** That's pretty much what a missionary is. They travel around and preach the Gospel.

**Joseph:** I think the same.

**Katie:** A Serbian.

### Your parents are missionaries. Do you help your parents with their work?

**David:** Yeah. I help my dad hand out Gospel of John books to mailboxes in Kać, [our city].

**William:** All three of us boys help to count the church-offering-box money.

**Joseph:** I help with the money, but I don't help with the Gospels of John.

### What do you like best about being a missionary kid?

**David:** I like going to new places. And I like getting to fly in airplanes when we go visit our grandma and grandpa.

**William:** I like going to different places that you would not go to if you weren't a missionary kid.

**Joseph:** My favorite is that I get to see new people and talk to them.

**Katie:** I like going to the store.

### Do you feel different than other kids you know?

**Joseph:** Yes

### How do you feel different?

**David:** I don't know, I just do.

**William:** Because we don't speak Serbian as much.

**Joseph:** Because our manners are really different.

### You are home-schooled. Describe your schooling to me.

**David:** In the morning we get our school books and do our lessons, and Mom explains things. I'm going to get a new desk soon.

**William:** It doesn't seem as fun as public school at times, like recess. We can have a break, but at public school you get more recess.

**Joseph:** Next year I am going to do first grade. I am kind of glad I am not in a public school.

### What activities or hobbies are you involved in?

**David:** I really like soccer and Legos, and I like to climb trees.

**William:** The same, and I like riding my bike.

**Joseph:** I like to ride my bike.

### Katie, what do you like to do?

**Katie:** I can climb a tree, when I put a chair next to it—but only on the trunk.

### What are your friends like where you live?

**David:** Lots of them like some of the same things I do, like Legos and soccer. All my soccer friends like soccer. They like riding bikes, too.

**William:** Since some of them are not Christians, they talk about not nice things, or they talk about soccer heroes and stuff like that.

### What do you want to be when you grow up and where do you want to live?

**David:** I don't really think a ton about that. Sometimes I want to be a scientist; sometimes I want to be an archeologist. Sometimes I want to be lots of things. I want to live in Serbia or maybe some country in Africa.

**William:** Either a farmer or a missionary. If I am a farmer, maybe I'll live in Serbia or America. If I were a missionary, I'd live somewhere around Hungary or Poland, I think.

**Joseph:** I want to be a missionary. Maybe in Romania... it's not too far from Serbia—it's attached.

**Katie:** A missionary in Serbia. ■

# For Their Children, Too!

BY SAMUEL E. ROBINSON (1925 – 2013)  
Originally printed in *Missions* May 1998

Brian and Jeffrey nestled into their seats on the huge 747 aircraft. Their cheeks were flushed with excitement as the young boys anticipated their first international flight. They had flown before—to Florida to see Disney World and the Kennedy Space Center, and to Phoenix to see Uncle Charlie. This was different. This time they would be flying across the Atlantic Ocean. They would be sleeping on the plane and the flight would be twice as long as the flight they took to Uncle Charlie's.

What a thrill it was as the plane gained altitude and things on the ground got smaller and smaller. The boys pressed their faces to the windows as the plane headed east over the ocean and they saw the coastline receding into the distance. As Brian and Jeffrey settled back into their seats, the color faded from their cheeks as they began to think of all they had left behind.

They were really going to miss their friends in the neighborhood and at school. Then there were their buddies on the softball team and their good friends at the chapel, especially their pals in Sunday school. It was rough saying goodbye to cousins, aunts and uncles. As hard as they tried not to, they cried as they hugged Grandma and Grandpa. They were sure going to miss those special weekends with them.

The boys were apprehensive, too, about what was ahead. When the plane landed, they would be in a foreign country where the people spoke a different language. Questions popped into their minds. Will we be able to learn the language? Will we be able to make friends? Will the kids laugh at us? What about the schools—what will they be like? Why did we have to leave our home in Pennsylvania? Did we really have to go? Yes, we did!

Dad and Mom had been commended by the local assembly to serve the Lord in Finland. Brian and Jeffrey remembered that night almost a year ago when their parents sat down with them. They told the boys God had called them to preach the Gospel to the Sami people in northern Finland. They carefully explained how God led them in that decision. Mom and Dad had been very active in the assembly, but to be missionaries? Wow! The boys recalled being very proud of their parents and excited, too. Now reality had arrived and Brian and Jeffrey felt uneasy and anxious.

The names may be fictitious but similar situations have

occurred hundreds of times in the lives of missionary families. They will continue as Christian parents respond to God's call to serve Him in the foreign mission fields. Years ago at the New York Monthly Missionary Prayer Meeting, A. P. Gibbs challenged the audience to pray for the children of missionaries. "Remember," he said, "the parents are volunteers in the Lord's work, but their children are conscripts." Conscripts are enrolled into service by compulsion. Some may feel that is a rather strong and unusual word to use when referring to missionaries' children. Maybe so, but let us not forget the unusual circumstances they face—adapting to a new culture with strange customs they do not fully understand; learning a new language; adjusting to a new school system which, in some cases, means separation from Mom and Dad for prolonged periods;

perhaps not having any real friends to play games with and many other unusual situations that affect these children. Having been closely associated with missionaries and their children for more than 40 years, I have seen a wide range of attitudes from happy acceptance to dejection, depression, despair and even defiance.

The Word of God reminds us, "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord."<sup>1</sup> We are told to "bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord," for if we "train up a child in the way he should go... when he is old he will not depart from it."<sup>2</sup> Children are indeed a blessing from the Lord, but let us never forget they are also an awesome responsibility. We all need to remember that whatever task God may call us to, He never relieves us of the responsibility of our children.

In the 2014 *Missionary Prayer Handbook* there are 364 children of missionaries listed. As we reflect on that number, can we dare to imagine the multiplicity of problems and peculiar circumstances these children face? Let us engulf them with prayer. God is able to guard, guide, and to protect them.

Pray for missionaries and pray for their children, too! ■

*Sam Robinson served as CMML president for 24 years and as a director for many more years before and after that. Many of the "Thinking it Through" editorials in Missions were penned by Sam, including this one, which is as powerful today as it was 16 years ago.*



<sup>1</sup> Psalm 127:3; <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6

# Home with the Lord



## Mary Lois MacDowell

*Missionary to the DR Congo • October 24, 1920—September 10, 2013*

Lois was born in rural Nova Scotia where she spent her early childhood on a farm. Her family later moved into the town of Truro after their beloved farmhouse burned to the ground. It took considerable time for her family to get back on their feet, during which time they were the recipients of assistance, grace, and hospitality offered by others. This event became a critical backdrop to what became the central feature and expression of Lois's life and ministry: offering hospitality.

As a child, Lois put her trust in Jesus and committed herself to missionary service. Though surely not understanding the implications of her resolve as a small child, she set herself on a course toward missions. Later, as her life journey unfolded, as questions arose, and in times of change, she would come back again and again to her original vision for the courage and resolve she needed.

Lois was the third child in a family of six. She developed a joyful spirit and a wonderful sense of humor and found joy and mirth in most of life. A good student, she maintained her grades even when she had to stay home to care for her youngest brother due to her mother's poor health after his birth. She later attended a business college and worked for several local businesses. She left Nova Scotia to work at Emmaus Bible School in Toronto where she took evening classes and deepened her interest in missions.

Due in significant part to her Aunt Eleanor and Uncle David Long's missionary work in Angola, Africa was always a part of Lois's idea of missions. The Longs mentored her spiritually, taught her about Africa, and supported her missions interest. It was in this context that she met Behring MacDowell, who was also considering missions work in central Africa. Behring was surprised to find someone better informed about Africa than he! Lois and Behring were married in 1946, whereupon they spent a year in Quebec studying French in preparation to go to the Belgian Congo.

They departed for Congo in 1947. Their first 13 years there were spent on a small station, Lolwa, where Lois became the mother of five children and was involved in literacy and teaching. She and Behring dreamed of opening a new station in the

heart of the Ituri rainforest, but the turbulent years following Congo's independence intervened. Their forced evacuation from Congo enabled other experience which enriched and equipped them for the work they envisioned. Behring completed a course in practical dentistry in the U.S. and then apprenticed with an Israeli oral surgeon in Rwanda. There, Lois offered hospitality to many who passed through.

Returning to Congo, they opened their rainforest station, Itendey, building a home, dental clinic, and chapel. So began a transformative work of healing and respite offered to anyone needing care. Most would stay in their home, and Itendey became known as a place of welcome, hospitality, care and renewal. Over the next 35 years Itendey saw the assembly grow, as well as the development of the dental clinic, dispensary, maternal and birth care center, nurses' homes, Bible school, and airstrip. Lois and Behring traveled extensively, offering mobile clinics around the region, with Lois serving as Behring's dental assistant. They also offered dental care training to medical students from the nearby medical training center. Eventually, Behring taught and mentored at least 10 Congolese in advanced dentistry. The government gave recognition to these individuals, enabling them to establish their own practices.

Lois and Behring were a team, each complementing the other. In their 70s and 80s, still at Itendey and after retiring from dentistry, both devoted their time to the constant succession of individuals who came to their door to pray and to seek counsel and encouragement in matters of faith and life—visits were always accompanied by hospitality with a cup of tea.

In 2000, at the height of Congo's Great War (approx. 1996 – 2006) that cost more than 5.4 million Congolese lives, and both in their 80s, Lois and Behring MacDowell left the Congo. A multitude of people lined the Itendey airstrip, sending them off with blessings and tears.

From 2000 to 2012, they lived in Wheaton, Illinois, in the home and care of their daughter and son-in-law Margie and Paul Robinson, and in the last years joined by their daughter, Annie McKenzie. Behring died in April 2012 and soon after Lois moved to Baldwin City, Kansas, where she lived at the Baldwin Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center until shortly before her death. Lois died peacefully in Paul and Margie's home in Baldwin City, lovingly attended by family.

In her life Lois was an exemplar of faithfulness, grace, joy, and welcome.

*Paul Robinson and Annie McKenzie*





# eTeams

## Serve Short-Term with MSC Canada

BY RON HAMPTON

***"I gained a fresh vision for evangelism, a new passion for seeing people saved, and a better understanding of how to witness. I learned about prayer dependence and personal devotion to Christ. I was able to meet like-minded believers from all over North America. I got to travel, not as a tourist, but as a friend of the people who live there."*** This message from a team member testifies that our goal for those who serve with us in short-term missions is being accomplished.

Formerly known as TnT Teams, eTeams seeks to glorify the Lord by enabling and equipping Christians to effectively cross cultures, encourage the national church and evangelize in English. We thank the Lord that our short-term missions trips have been used to produce long-term results not only in the lives of our team members, but also for the Lord's work in Ireland and Ghana.

The "e" in eTeams represents goals such as engaging, enabling and equipping believers who can use their own language to encourage and edify the national church and also to put into practice what they've been taught by going out to evangelize. The other "e" word that overrides much of our thinking is effective. We desire to be good stewards of the time, effort and finances each team member, along with their home assembly, is investing.

Our full-time missionaries aren't "lone rangers" and our short-termers shouldn't be either. We emphasize New Testament principles relating to local church-driven missions. No team member is approved unless they have first engaged their local church leadership to prayerfully consider this opportunity with them. We only accept those whose elders are in agreement with their going. We explain to their assembly some of the difficulties the short-term missionary will face and how their prayer support is essential.

Our model of short-term missions exposes the team members to another country so they can learn important cross-cultural lessons. Language is probably the ultimate cross-cultural

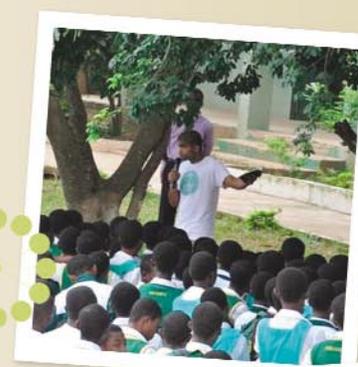
learning experience, but you need much more time than short-term to be effective with another language. For this reason, our teams go to English-speaking areas.

To encourage long-term results, we only place teams where there are either existing assemblies or resident missionaries to carry on the work after the team has left. To work in support of the ongoing work in any locality, and to underline our commitment to effectiveness, upon applying, every team member agrees to work under the direction of the local assembly elders and missionaries as well as their team leader. We work closely with several first-generation assemblies, some of which we have been involved with from their beginning, and assembly-commended missionaries from the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom. It is a true fellowship involving assemblies, assembly leaders, missionaries and our teams.

Organizing and sponsoring biblical eldership conferences and one-day mini Bible schools, eTeams encourages the national work and provides tens of thousands of expertly-produced gospel magazines each year to use in evangelism efforts.

In 2014 we have teams planned for Ghana from February 13 to March 3 and then two options in Ireland from May 23 to June 9 or May 23 to June 16. Please visit [www.eTeams.ca](http://www.eTeams.ca) for details on how you can participate in this work by praying, giving and going, and for testimonials from former team members, missionaries and local assembly elders. ■

*Ron Hampton, a regional representative for MSC Canada, directs the eTeams ministry.*



**Top:** Evangelism in Ghana; Evangelism in Ireland.

**Left:** Ghana team; Ireland team.

