

Missions

14 THINGS TO KNOW

Before Going on the Mission Field

THAILAND
Missions
Retreat

THE PHILIPPINES:
The Work and
the Workers

Meet the
CMML and MSC
Team



Thinking It Through

WARREN HENDERSON

New Beginnings

The cleansing breath so eagerly exhaled after the holiday season is often followed by the abrupt realization that December is far spent and that we are on the eve of a new year. Our familiar calendars and annual devotionals will soon be put aside as we embark on a new journey in a new year. What will we do differently this year? Will we make new commitments to promote better behavior? The advent of a “new beginning” is a good time to pause and ponder where we have been, what we have learned, and what we should do differently.

Besides their literal value, numbers are used in Scripture to signify important matters. The number eight is repeatedly used in the Bible to speak of “new beginnings” such as new life or a new order. We are already familiar with this concept: the eighth day begins a new week in our calendars, and the eighth note in a musical scale begins a new octave. Perhaps as we consider new commitments to the Lord in a new year we might glean some practical lessons from the number eight, God’s numeral for new things in Scripture.

Eight is the start of a new series, just as the seventh day, Saturday, yields to the eighth, Sunday, to begin a new week.¹ The Lord rose from the dead on Sunday to demonstrate the newness of His resurrection life. We first experienced this new life when we trusted Christ as Savior and were spiritually born again.²

In Noah’s day, eight souls entered an ark to escape the flood, God’s judgment upon the wicked.³ The ark protected its occupants from God’s wrath, lifted them off the earth to be alone with God, and safely carried them to a new life in a new world. Abraham circumcised Isaac on the eighth day after his birth; this pattern was later upheld by the Law of Moses.⁴ Joseph and Mary had the Lord Jesus circumcised in this way.⁵ The prophet Samuel was to anoint a new king of Israel—David, the eighth son of Jesse.⁶ Through David a new and everlasting dynasty was established; the Lord Jesus Christ will rule from the throne of David forever.

The numeral eight is also tied to the ceremonial cleansing of a cured leper. The Old Testament records only two Jews, Moses and Miriam, being cleansed of leprosy, and both occurrences

were given as signs to affirm God’s power and leadership. In ancient days, if a priest diagnosed you with leprosy, you were isolated from society to suffer a slow, agonizing death. However, during Christ’s ministry on earth, He healed many lepers, who, according to the Law, would need to return to the temple and be ceremonially cleansed by a priest.⁷ After being miraculously healed by Christ (symbolizing new birth) and declared clean by a priest (a picture of justification), the cleansed leper would then bathe himself (typifying the personal confession of sin). After seven days, that is, on the eighth day, he would bathe again and rejoin his family and society and begin life afresh.

As we venture into the unknowns of a new year, we can derive some applications from how God symbolizes new beginnings through the numeral eight.

It is suggested that before we rise from our beds each morning, we pause to do two things. First, thank the Lord for one thing we have in Him. Let us wonder afresh at God’s goodness towards us; through Christ we have experienced a new birth, a new beginning, and a new life.

Second, the new life we enjoy in Christ is not our own; it is to be lived for God, which means it must be a circumcised life.⁸ The circumcised life has no confidence in the wisdom or strength of the flesh, for what is sown after the flesh brings devastation and cannot please God.⁹ Our spiritual unification with Christ not only ensures eternal life but the availability of resurrection power. After thanking the Lord, might we “cleansed lepers” confess one behavior which is hindering our fellowship with the Lord and preventing us from experiencing daily personal revival.

If the Lord be not come, let us exit 2014 a much richer people for having daily thanked the Lord and having been mindful of personal sin. May the Lord Jesus wonderfully bless your new beginning this new year. ■

¹ Genesis 2:3; ² John 3:3, 15; ³ 1 Peter 3:20; ⁴ Genesis 17:12; ⁵ Luke 2:21; ⁶ 1 Samuel 17:12; ⁷ Leviticus 14; ⁸ Romans 2:28–29; ⁹ Philippians 3:3, Galatians 6:7–8



Preparation Before Missionary Service

14 Things I Wish Missionaries Were Told Before They Went to the Field

BY JONATHAN WARD

Although far from exhaustive, and knowing that specific situations will vary, the following points are helpful for those considering serving overseas or preparing to do so.

1 ASSESS YOUR TRUE MOTIVES. Going to the mission field is not about making you a better Christian, gaining recognition within the church, obtaining spiritual favor with God, doing something easier because you don't like your job, moving to a more exotic location, or going somewhere where people will appreciate you more. Serving as a missionary is all about being constrained by the love of God to respond to His call to leave the security of all that is familiar and deploy your God-given gifts within another culture.

2 CONSIDER THE COST. The real cost is in terms of family, professional advancement, and relationships. It involves your kids growing up thousands of miles from their grandparents. It means giving up the chance to build a successful career in your own culture in favor of being a servant in another culture. It means being willing to encounter the loneliness that comes from serving in a strange land and being labeled "the missionary," with all the expectations and complications it may entail.

3 LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP. Expectations have a way of misleading and trapping us. In order to shape expectations prior to departure, there is nothing more helpful than visiting the proposed field to look and see. Cost will be a factor and you

may feel you cannot afford the luxury, but it will give you a much clearer sense of where God is leading rather than jumping immediately in for the long haul. Such a visit (especially during an unfavorable season) will help you see firsthand the challenges of the climate, food, culture, utilities, amenities, medical care and educational options for your children (or lack thereof). It will also help you get a better indication of where you might fit with regard to roles and responsibilities.

4 DON'T SKIMP ON TRAINING AND PREPARATION. Invest in the training you will need, either through formal study or from reading books. You won't regret it. Research suggests that while many missionaries will attend Bible school or seminary to prepare for missionary service, few will have studied missiology, even though this has proven to be just as important as biblical study. While knowing what the Bible teaches is essential, it is even more essential to know how to apply it in a given mission situation, as people tend to think that the application of Scripture in their own culture is the correct one for all cultures.

Depending on the context and type of work you will do, studying the following subjects may also be of tremendous value: cross-cultural communication, world religion, animism, contextualization, globalization, development studies, communication theory, world trends and leadership.

5 FOCUS ON LEARNING THE LANGUAGE FIRST. Many missionaries arrive on the mission field and hit the ground running, giving themselves very little time to adjust. They plunge into ministry, driven by all the needs around them. While they may accomplish plenty during their first months of service, they will also struggle with trying to juggle language acquisition with doing ministry and adjusting culturally. New missionaries often think, “I’ll learn the language as I work and within six months I’ll be fluent,” but their long-term effectiveness suffers because it takes them so much longer to learn to communicate. Everything becomes much harder, much slower and much more frustrating.

Devoting one’s first year on the field to simply learning the language and adjusting to the culture will pay dividends in one’s long-term effectiveness, setting a foundation for effective ministry. When it is possible to begin learning the language prefield, it is a tremendous boost to both morale and long-term acquisition. Research has demonstrated that with most languages, especially inflected languages such as Arabic, Hindi, Romanian and Russian, those who start with intensive formal training become far more nativelike and have fewer language-learning difficulties and frustrations.

When couples are at different stages of language learning or when they learn languages at different rates, which will apply to most people even if both originally started from zero, frustration can arise when one becomes more fluent than the other. Then, like water, language

takes the easiest course and everything gets directed to the stronger communicator, who then gets plenty of opportunities to practice in all kinds of situations while the other is left out. Unable to practice as much, the less proficient partner becomes more socially isolated and increasingly reliant on the stronger communicator. As the disparity grows, frustration results for all concerned.

The solution lies in dividing tasks so that the one who is less proficient has more opportunity to practice without the other being on hand to bail him or her out. For instance, couples can deliberately go in different directions at the end of church so that people will interact with both of them separately.



6 BE INCREDIBLY FLEXIBLE. Expect that things will not go according to plan, and don’t allow yourself to become frustrated when things go poorly. Tasks take a lot more time than you may be used to, from administrative procedures to meetings and mealtimes. Life on the mission field can be challenging and enjoyable, but it can also burden you if you let it.

7 HOW WELL DO YOU REALLY KNOW YOURSELF? How do you handle stress? How do you cope with criticism? How do you respond to an authoritarian style of leadership? One helpful way to understand yourself better is through personality testing. Although it has its limits and is not an exact science, it can help you to become more aware of yourself and others in areas such as work style, leadership style, stress management, teamwork and conflict management. Typical instruments would include the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and the DISC assessment, both of which are widely used within mission settings.

8 SHARPEN YOUR INTERPERSONAL SKILLS. Good interpersonal skills are critical to missionary effectiveness and longevity. Studies on missionary attrition show that poor relationships with missionary colleagues are among the top reasons for premature departures from the field. You may have good knowledge and technical skills, but without proper interpersonal skills you will be handicapped in relating to others, especially in a cross-cultural setting.

It is a myth that new missionaries come with necessary interpersonal skills, and it is also a myth that if people are committed Christians and called to be missionaries, they will relate well to other missionaries.

Other myths include the following:

- *How we relate to one another is largely unrelated to our work and ministry.*
Jesus’ view of this is unequivocal: “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)
- *Our rough edges will naturally disappear as we serve God on the field.*
Such a passive response assumes that interpersonal development simply improves with time. This is generally not the case. As we get older our functioning (and our dysfunction) tends to become entrenched unless we make an intentional effort to actively learn how to relate better.
- *If a missionary is needed and his or her work is done well,*

then treating others poorly can be tolerated.

Anyone who has been on the field can testify that a huge amount of harm can be done by one person with destructive behaviors, leading to significant hurt, mistrust and disunity.

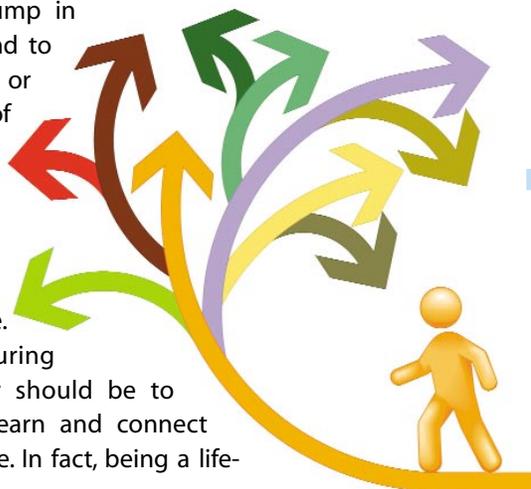
Since the ability to relate well to others is just as important as having technical skills and/or biblical knowledge, missionaries will gain greatly by giving it serious attention. One of the most effective biblical and practical training workshops for missionaries in this area is by International Training Partners called *Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills*. I would encourage every missionary and prospective missionary to attend this valuable workshop, which is offered in various places around the world. See ITPartners.org for details.

DON'T EXPECT TO DIVE IN RIGHT AWAY. Immersing yourself in the culture is a good thing. But immersing yourself in ministry before you have given yourself time to adjust to the culture is a recipe for frustration. The tendency for highly motivated, doing-oriented people is to jump in and be busy. Your plane lands, the needs are all around you, you know the harvest is great but the laborers are few, so you give yourself a week to get settled and then you throw yourself into whatever it was you came to do. But it takes more time than you think to get acclimated, find your way around, understand the banking system, identify the food, find a vehicle, get insurance, plus a dozen other things.

It also takes time to begin to learn the culture, figure out your role in ministry, and understand realistically how your contribution will be most effective.

Never underestimate the subtle pressure, from yourself and from others, to be seen as “productive” as quickly as possible.

People who jump in too quickly tend to either burn out or make a mess of things. Also never underestimate the time it takes to understand another culture. Your goal during your first year should be to observe and learn and connect with the people. In fact, being a life-



long “learner” will be your greatest asset, as opposed to believing you are there to tell people what you know.

10 PURSUE FRIENDSHIPS ON THE FIELD. Missionaries tend to be highly mobile, moving from one place to another every few years for a variety of reasons including children’s educational needs, ministry transitions, political turmoil, and health issues. This means that being a missionary often involves frequent goodbyes. The temptation may be to withhold investing too much energy in relationships that will soon end. While we need to get used to saying goodbye, we also need to remain open to connecting with new people, even short-term workers, because God will want to use them to be a blessing in our lives. Additionally, since missionaries often change but local people don’t, it is important to also develop close friendships with locals and not just with other missionaries.

11 AVOID MULTIPLE TRANSITIONS. Life comes with its seasons and transitions. Any major transition, even the most positive, will inevitably incur stress as we deploy our energies to adjust. Major transitions include leaving home, getting married, becoming a parent, changing jobs and moving houses. Sometimes, however, we needlessly and unwisely compound our stress by multiplying transitions. It may be tempting, for example, to go to the mission field shortly after getting married, thus squeezing two major life changes into a short space of time. The risk—and I have often seen it—is that adjusting to marriage is not given the attention it needs because so much of the newlyweds’ energy is diverted into adjusting to a new culture, climate, language and ministry. Deuteronomy 24:5 gives a wise principle in this regard: “When a man has taken a new wife, he shall not go out to war or be charged with any business; he shall be free at home one year, and bring happiness to his wife whom he has taken.”

12 PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO YOUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH. Spiritual depletion can be common for missionaries. Don’t be surprised at this! In giving so much to others, they sometimes either neglect their own spiritual health or struggle to find ways to be fed and replenish themselves because the opportunities are so limited in the places where they serve. A possible solution is to have a supply of downloaded sermons that can be routinely listened to at home and while traveling. Another solution might be to meet with

another missionary for regular times of sharing, prayer and mutual accountability. Trust will be the key ingredient for this to work effectively, based on confidentiality and a non-judgmental stance.

10 TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF EVEN AS YOU CARE FOR OTHERS.

If you are to avoid depletion leading to burnout, replenishing yourself physically and emotionally is paramount. Guilt (“what will people think if I take a break?”) and the urgency of people’s needs and demands (“how can I afford the time to stop?”) will be your greatest enemies. Yet engaging in regular times of Sabbath rest (vacations, days off, retreats) will be vital to your survival. Taking care of yourself is not selfishness but stewardship—a very necessary act of good stewardship, making you more effective in what you do for the Lord.

14 MAKE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR YOUR RETIREMENT.

When you’re young and keen to serve in missions, retirement may be the furthest thing from your mind. Remember, however, one day you will need a source of income when you return from the field. Obtain good financial advice before you leave and don’t stop putting money aside for your retirement needs. ■



Jonathan Ward serves at Entrepierres, France, where he directs a missionary care center serving Christian workers in the French-speaking world, offering rest, counseling and debriefing (www.PierresVivantes.org).

Jonathan and Rachel were commended in 1999 by Hilltop Chapel, Toronto, Canada.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Christopher Mattix—Missionary to Bolivia

I was blessed to be born and raised in Bolivia by missionary parents. Being completely immersed in Bolivian life inspired me to be a missionary at an early age.

Although I was saved at a young age and baptized as an adolescent, I began to drift from this original love of missions. I dreamed of going into business and making money. When my parents asked me to attend Emmaus Bible College, I was stubbornly against it, yet eventually I relented and went. During my first year at Emmaus I did not fit in well, feeling far too sinful to even be there. I realized later that many freshmen feel this way; it’s important to face our own hypocrisy and receive God’s marvelous grace.

Having done what my parents asked of me, I moved to Seattle, Washington, in pursuit of the many plans I had laid out. Thankfully, God graciously redirected and even disciplined me. The next year was difficult but now I see how God clearly led me toward a better and brighter calling. Though my own plans may have been good, the motivations were wrong.

God directed me to return to Emmaus and then to serve Him. I can’t thank Him enough for leading me, loving me, and

opening opportunities before me.

When I graduated from Emmaus, I immediately left for Bolivia with a passion to honor and glorify God. I planned to travel to other countries as well, thinking there would not be enough to keep me busy. But after two years I am still here in Camiri, Bolivia, and opportunities keep coming and ministries are blossoming. It is truly a privilege to be in God’s service, to see His power at work in the preaching of the Word.

The ministries I am involved in include teaching at Bible schools in Bolivia, as well as in Peru, preaching multiple times per week, and regularly recording at the local Christian radio station. It is a blessing to be used as God’s instrument, and I am excited to see what He will do in the future.

Please remember me in prayer: that God would be glorified and His Word clearly understood by all who hear. Also pray that I would have wisdom in how to help the churches mature, to help them avoid legalism by understanding grace, and to better equip the next generation of Biblical servant-leaders. ■





Chiang Mai, Thailand, Missions Retreat

BY ROBERT DADD

In early October my wife Helen and I were privileged to attend a missions retreat at a restful golf resort in the city of Chiang Mai in northern Thailand. The retreat was hosted by Echoes of Service (EOS) of Great Britain, MSC Canada and CMML. Ian and Margaret Burness represented EOS and Phil and Marilyn Barnes represented MSC. A total of 15 families, which serve in eight countries across south Asia, attended. The purpose was to provide a much needed time of relaxation, good Christian fellowship, and spiritual renewal—all in English. This was the fourth conference of this type held in south Asia.

The beautiful venue was set in the green rolling hills of Thailand. The meals served in a large open dining room overlooking the golf course provided wonderful times of fellowship and many new friendships. The swimming pool was a popular place, especially with the 14 missionary kids who attended. We are indebted to the staff of EOS for their work to identify the resort and handle the many arrangements.

Each morning began with a time of singing followed by messages on the life of Elijah from Howard Peebles, a director of EOS from Glasgow, Scotland. His messages were right on target for our audience as they reminded us how God works and directs in the lives of those who seek to serve Him. God is faithful in times of success as well as in times of discouragement, as we heard from many in attendance. During the coffee breaks we enjoyed delicious cookies and cakes baked by Nisa Crutchfield (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 8), which she carefully wrapped and transported all the way from Hong Kong.

We heard thrilling reports from each one present telling about the work in their country (and sometimes countries) of service. We rejoiced as we learned of the various ways God is using to bring the message of His love and salvation to people of different countries, languages and cultures. The reports included many prayer requests. Each day ended with a short devotional message and prayer.

Everyone agreed that the conference was exceptionally valuable. Most of those present serve in hostile environments where they are often isolated, even in large cities. They do not have the opportunity to enjoy fellowship the way we do in the United States and Canada. You can imagine the excitement when one of the families at the conference met someone else who, unknown to them, also works in their same city! As the retreat concluded, we proved the blessing and wisdom of the Lord's instruction in Mark's Gospel "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile."

Please remember to pray for those serving in these difficult areas. ■

Robert Dadd is CMML's president.



From top: Wat Phra Sing temple, Chiang Mai Province, Thailand ©iStockPhoto.com/pigphoto; Conference meeting; Howard Peebles; Ian Burness.

The Philippines:

The Work and the Workers

BY PHIL BARNES

There's no place quite like the Philippines—the congested traffic of Manila, the natural beauty of mountainous islands, the colorful “Jeepneys” packed and overflowing with passengers, and the Filipinos themselves, with their polite ways and quick smiles, who have earned an international reputation as “hospitable, conservative and happy people.”¹

Compared to the larger landmasses of our globe, the Philippines seem like one of the smaller dots on the map, or rather 7,250 dots, since that is the staggering number of islands in this, the world's second largest, archipelago. However, this relatively small country has often been in the crosshairs of earthquakes, typhoons, world powers at war, and political and military revolutions. The world's attention has turned to the Philippines on countless occasions through the United States' battles with Japan during World War II and MacArthur's famous pledge to return, the reign of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, the assassination of opposition leader

Benigno Aquino in 1983, the subsequent People Power Revolution and the rise of Corazon Aquino to power. In more recent times, natural disasters have pushed the Philippines into the global spotlight, especially the recent Typhoon Haiyan which decimated much of central Philippines.

These factors, plus 186 people groups, 116 languages and dialects, and the entrenched nominal “Christianity” (92.2 percent of the 93 million population identify as Christian) present great challenges to the task of developing true disciples of Jesus Christ.²

The brethren movement has been active in the Philippines since 1913 when two American servicemen started a Bible class for high school students. They were soon followed in 1919 by George and Ethelgiva Wightman. Three years later Cyril and Anna Brooks were commended from Canada, and served in the Philippines for decades, followed by their children Len, Ken and Rose, who continues in the work in Manila today.³



CMPI retreat group photo [photo by Todd Eichenauer]

Missionary retreat

There are currently about 70 workers commended to the Philippines through AMT (Australia), Global Connections (New Zealand), Echoes of Service (UK), CMML, and MSC Canada.

These workers meet for a few days each year for a workers' retreat, organized under the auspices of Christian Missions in the Philippine Islands (CMPI). My wife Marilyn and I had the joy of representing MSC at this year's edition.

The great value of these gatherings is the time shared together with people who “get it.” For most workers there are very few people in their lives, including their friends and families back home, their commending assembly, and the national believers they work with, who deeply understand the stresses,

struggles, disappointments and sacrifices that overseas workers live with. It can be refreshing just to spend time with other people whose lives resemble your own.

Each morning began with sessions of Bible teaching and seminars dealing with some of the stresses and challenges of cross-cultural missions. These included profitable interactions as workers were able to share from their own experiences. Reports were given in afternoon and evening sessions by each family who outlined the work they have been involved in over the last year. Again, there was a wonderful level of openness as they shared joys and highlights and also struggles and concerns in their lives, ministry and families.

¹ <http://GoodNewsPilipinas.com>. ² 2010, Mandryk, Jason Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide to Every Nation 7th edition.

³ 1984, Tatford, F.A That The World May Know: The Mysterious Far East pp. 261–265.



Faith Academy

One of the greatest needs expatriate missionaries have to trust the Lord for is their children's education. For some the challenge is the expense, for others it is the separation of families as boarding school may be the best or only option, for others it is the lack of quality schools available in their region. Opened in 1957 with donated books and 49 students, Faith Academy is a school for children of missionaries. Faith has since grown into a large, remarkable facility. The campus is beautiful and the facilities impressive. On campus are a state-of-the-art concert and performance hall, aquatic center, sports

facilities, music rooms and technical shops.

The island of Mindanao is home to a second Faith campus which accommodates 140 students in addition to the 600 accommodated at the main Manila campus.

Brethren missionaries were involved in this school from the beginning, and many have served the Lord there over the years, including Phil and Mary Parsons of CMML. Currently, Todd and Miriam Eichenauer and Jerry Uy serve at Faith Academy (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 10).

Shepherd's Home

Shepherd's Home is the ministry of Sharon Agnew (MPH Day 9). It is a place where single, pregnant women who do not have resources or family support can live in safety and grace during their pregnancy, the birth of their babies, and the early days of motherhood. God's love is shown in a practical way, offering these women temporary support and shelter while discipling them for Christ, until they are able to become independent once again.

The home can accommodate four mothers along with their children at one time. The average stay is for one year, depending on needs. For example, two mothers presently in the home have been there for more than two years, as one is completing her education and the other has a unique situation with a profoundly handicapped child. Another mother was recently there for seven months until she was able to get work and reconnect with her family who now helps to look after her child.

Shepherd's Home has helped 17 mothers since it began. Many of the girls have come from very difficult and abusive backgrounds and would not be treated well by their families as a young, single, expectant mother.

While caring for their physical needs, Sharon has the opportunity to present Christ as the ultimate "Good Shepherd." Some come already knowing Him as Savior, and others have come to know and accept Him during their stay. Efforts are made to help new believers grow in their faith and deepen their relationship with the Lord.

The ministry to the girls also involves the areas of personal needs, interpersonal relationships, parenting and homemaking skills, as well as livelihood, employment and budgeting skills. Another important goal is to work, as much as possible, toward reconciliation with family members.

Follow-up support and encouragement are important, as life is particularly hard for those who still do not have family support and are raising their children on their own. Most of them receive salaries that are very inadequate to meet their needs, and so a sponsorship program has been developed to offer these mothers some financial assistance which helps with the cost of babysitting or schooling needs for the children. A small housing project, which will provide low-rent housing for some as they move out on their own, has been initiated.

Pray for these ministries

It was a great privilege to visit these workers and see their ministries and facilities. We trust that these stories will inspire prayer and support for these effective efforts being made to further the Lord's work in the Philippine Islands. ■



Phil Barnes is MSC Canada's executive director.

Top: Faith Academy building and grounds. **Above (L-R):** The front of Shepherd's Home; Sharon Agnew cooking with Shepherd's Home women; Mother with her handicapped child.

MAY WE INTRODUCE

Jeremy and Sonja Bassett Missionaries to Burundi



Jeremy's Testimony

I grew up in a Christian home in Oregon. As a child I heard, understood, and believed the simplicity of the Gospel; I was a sinner in need of a Savior, Jesus was that Savior who had died on the cross for my sins, and by faith in His person and work alone I could be forgiven and reconciled to my Creator and God. I joyfully put my childlike faith in Christ for salvation at the age of six, and was privileged to be baptized by my father in our swimming pool. However, over the years, my family and I were exposed to various churches with diverse (if not harmful) practices and doctrinal stances. This exposure ranged from charismatic to ultra-conservative groups. Although it took my parents some time to sort through these various teachings, ultimately it drove them back to the Bible and to the conclusion that the Word alone is a believer's authority. This conclusion was contagious and was crucially formative to who I am today in the Lord. It has had an immense impact on my convictions regarding the need to share the Gospel to the world and to adopt God's desire to see all believers conformed more and more to the image of Christ. I believe that the Lord has put the work of discipleship on my heart, and I see it as a crucial part of the Great Commission as given by Christ in Matthew 28:18-20.

Sonja's Testimony

I was raised in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. I heard the Gospel regularly as a young child and placed my faith in Christ at the age of six. Some of my great-grandparents were believers and my grandparents and parents are believers. I am grateful for a long heritage of people who followed the Lord and who told me of His love when I was so young. Because of the teaching of my parents, and through Sunday school, I continued to learn from the Word as I grew older. There came a time during my

teen years that I needed to deal with doubts I was having and also take personal responsibility for the health of my walk with the Lord. Though my assembly often had missionaries visit, and we supported many missionaries, it wasn't until the end of my teen years when I really began to pay attention to their type of service in the Lord and was attracted to it. During that time I was also drawn to the idea of going to Bible school and decided on New Tribes Bible Institute. Going through the entire Word of God in a chronological order in the period of two years encouraged me and challenged my walk with the Lord and my knowledge of the Word and God's dealing with man through the ages. The Bible fit together and "came to life" to me in a way that I had never seen it before. It was during this time that my desire for foreign missions was confirmed.

Together

When Sonja and I met at New Tribes Bible Institute in Wisconsin, she already desired to be involved in missions work, and the Lord had just put the same desire into my heart as well. As we got to know each other through work and school, we felt the Lord using our similar backgrounds, beliefs, convictions, desires, and leading toward foreign missions to draw us together to work for His purpose. We were married in 2009 and the Lord used the following three years to show us how selfish we were and areas to improve both individually and as a couple. In this past year (2013), through prayer, meeting with certain people, a magazine article, and being personally exposed to needs, we believe that the Lord has opened the door for us to serve Him in Burundi, Africa. We have nothing but confidence in His leading, provision and faithfulness, and we are excited to see how He will work in and through our lives in the years to come. ■

Home with the Lord

David Alwyn Jones

Missionary to Chile • November 25, 1932—August 20, 2013



David Alwyn Jones was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He was raised in a Christian home and his parents, David L. and Mary, were active in the East Kildonan Gospel Hall. At age nine he heard a message that made him aware of his need of salvation. That night, unable to sleep, he called for his mother. Bringing her Bible to his bedside, she turned to John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me." He trusted Christ as his Savior.

He moved from Winnipeg to Vancouver when he was 15 and went on to work at the Canadian National Telegraph office. He started a Sunday school with Bill Hague in Deep Cove, 5 km from Vancouver, which eventually resulted in an assembly.

He married Evelyn Lowry in 1954 and later became an air traffic controller at the Vancouver Airport. From the world's standpoint, the future was secure. But David and Evelyn agreed that should the Lord call them into His work full-time, they were willing.

David joined a home missionary prayer time. If no missionary was visiting, people were asked to research and report on a country. David reported on Chile and the seed for full-time work began to sprout. Later, William McBride, a missionary to Chile, visited Vancouver and in conversations with David the call was strengthened. David and Evelyn prayed for an indication from God as they had now purchased a home and their first daughter was soon to be born. To pay for the boat fare to Chile, they would have to sell their house. They'd feel confirmed to go if their house sold by the end of August, and if it didn't, they'd take it off the market and wait. On August 30 the house sold so they obeyed God and left home, loved ones, and job security. With their one-year-old Kathy in tow, they arrived in Chile on November 14, 1959.

His impact on the work in Chile over 54 years has been transformational. He sat under the tutelage of pioneers like Bill McBride and Eliecer Parada as he mastered Spanish and the Chilean culture. Gospel meetings were held, people were saved, new works planted, assemblies began, resources created, and national full-time workers were disciplined and commended. He developed a daily radio broadcast that ran 50 years. During the past decade he used social media to send daily meditations to

thousands of subscribers as well as developing a Sunday school lesson resources website—in Spanish and English.

David and Evelyn went on to have three more children, all born in Chile. Initially settling in Talca, he worked in summer tent campaigns and saw an assembly formed in Curico. They later moved to San Felipe where he helped develop the San Felipe and Santa Maria assemblies.

In 1973 they temporarily relocated back to Vancouver for their children's education. His passion for the Lord's work never wavered. Once their children graduated from high school, David and Evelyn returned to Chile full-time.

In January 2009 Evelyn was taken suddenly in a car accident. This time of testing strengthened the family's closeness and their faith in God. David believed he was spared because his work was not complete.

In May 2010 David married Margaret Ronald, a longtime fellow missionary. Together they continued to serve even during David's battle with cancer.

A man of prayer, David impacted thousands of lives through Gospel preaching and Scripture teaching. He was a father figure, investing in and developing young men as well as leaders and assemblies. Chile was his home and Chileans adopted him as one of their own. A Chilean brother posted, "Many congregations mourn his absence.... The current generation of believers is putting into practice what they have learned from him and, with the Lord's help, we are prepared to fill the void this great man of God is leaving."

On October 31, a memorial meeting was held in honor of "Don David." It was a special time as believers from assemblies around Chile, fellow missionaries and national workers, neighbors, and family honored his memory.

He is survived by his second wife, Margaret (nee Ronald), his four children, 10 grandchildren, and three sisters. Margaret continues the Lord's work in the Aconcagua Valley.

He will be remembered as a generous, kind, and discerning man of God who served with boundless energy and a smile on his face, along with a forgiving spirit and a strong ability to love.

DAVID R. JONES



Meet the Team

CMML and MSC Canada feel privileged to serve the Lord's servants around the world. We know, and greatly appreciate, that many *Missions* readers faithfully pray for us (especially on "Day 31" where we are listed in the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*). We humbly ask you to continue to uphold us in prayer.

MSC Canada



William Yuille, Vice President

Bill uses his years of experience with MSC to assist in many aspects of the ministry.



Savitri Manickam, Administrative Assistant

Savitri processes the daily donations received by mail and manages the pre-authorized donation processing as well as many other office tasks.



Ted Windle, Short-Term Team Coordinator

Ted coordinates all short-term missions activity carried out through MSC.



Sandra Barnett, Administrator

Sandra oversees the day-to-day operations of the MSC office and is the liaison with our missionaries.



Gerrit Van Essen, ACCTS Coordinator

Gerrit heads up ACCTS by coordinating shipments, volunteers, and managing the main warehouse.



Phil Barnes, Executive Director

Phil leads and oversees the operation of MSC under the direction of the Board of Directors.



Kevin Shantz, Financial Director

Kevin oversees all of the financial aspects of MSC.



Marilyn Barnes, WorkerCare

Marilyn serves in MSC's WorkerCare program by connecting with workers in the field and offering support for the many challenges they face in difficult circumstances.



Edith Masuello, Secretary

Edith is the voice of MSC in both English and Spanish. Among other responsibilities, she assembles the news items for the weekly *Missionary Prayer Items* bulletin.



Jerry Bolton, Communications Director

Jerry is responsible for managing MSC's social media profiles, website content, photography, videography and communications flow.

Volunteers

CMML and MSC have many faithful volunteers who sacrificially serve the Lord through our organizations. There are too many people to list, but here are a few who have leadership roles or volunteer on a regular basis.

CMML

- Marie Myers, *Clothing Center Manager*
- Brian Kramer, *Short-term Service Coordinator*
- Allen Dey, *Magazine Proofreader*
- Charlie Myers
- Jack and Millie Malonson
- Judy Gallagher
- ...and many more

MSC Canada

- Naomi Yuille
- Bill Millard
- Ed Miller
- Ted Kay
- Tom Browning
- ...and many more

Board Members

CMML and MSC are blessed with leaders who seek to serve the Lord in every decision they make. A few board members are pictured here, however the entire list is printed on page 23. Please remember our leadership in prayer.

CMML



Heather Zappella, Office Administrator
Heather manages a wide range of tasks to ensure the CMML office runs smoothly. She also manages the website and the *Missionary Prayer Handbook* production.



Allan Wilks, Vice President—Technology
Allan created and maintains CMML's donations and missionary database.



Tom Turner, Vice President—Publishing
Tom oversees all CMML publishing projects including *Missions* magazine and the *Missionary Prayer Handbook*.



Jennifer Rogers, Donor Relations; Special Projects Coordinator
Jennifer processes mail and donations and organizes countless projects and “behind the scenes” conference tasks.



Phil Parsons, Assembly Relations and Missionary Care
Phil visits assemblies, meets with newly commended missionaries, and stays in touch with workers around the world.



Mary Parsons, Guest Home Hostess
As the CMML hostess, Mary manages the guest scheduling and makes the many visiting missionaries feel at home.



Annie O'Connor, Missions Editor
As Editor of *Missions* magazine, Annie plans, coordinates, and edits each issue. She also manages CMML's social media accounts and helps with the website and handbook.



Peg Hart, Communications
Emails, letters, and phone calls fill most of Peg's day. She also handles the magazine subscription list and many other tasks.



Craig Fritchey, Conference Coordinator
Craig manages CMML conferences both locally and throughout the country. Visit CMML.us/Events for upcoming conferences.



Robert Dadd, Board President
Bob leads CMML's Board of Directors and staff, and visits and meets with missionaries.



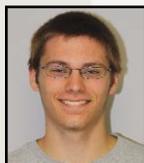
Russ Click, Building Maintenance
Russ does a variety of maintenance and repair projects to keep the CMML facilities in top shape.



Joe Cannata, Accountant
Joe handles the day-to-day financial areas of CMML. If you have any questions about wills, annuities, etc., please contact Joe.



Marilyn Brown, Data Entry
Marilyn helps part-time, processing donations and proofing receipts.



Daniel Brown, Building Maintenance
A college student, Daniel helps part-time in building maintenance.

Refocused—Japan Day 9

Dear Friends at CMML,

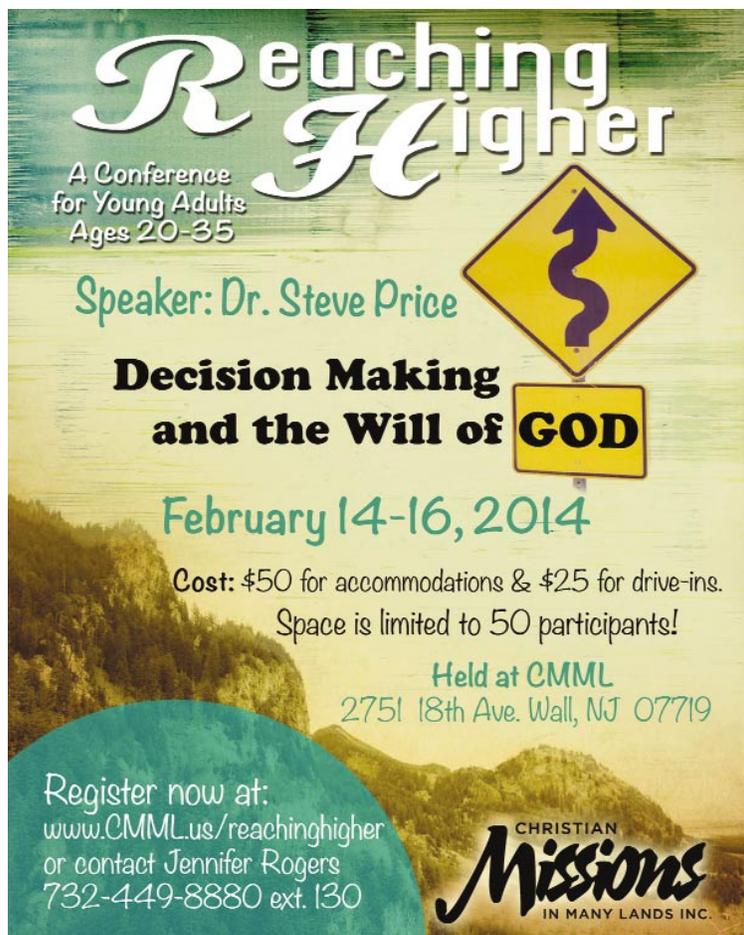
I received a phone call a few weeks ago that brought me back to my first Lord's Day in Japan. The meeting door opened and a rather timid looking young man walked in and took the seat beside me. It was his first time too. He carried a bilingual New Testament. Soon he indicated to me that he wanted to know where to open his Bible. I did not know exactly what was being said, but I showed him Romans 10:9. You remember the Scripture, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth... and believe in thine heart... thou shalt be saved."

Six weeks later I was in my own apartment for the first time. A dear young German worker, Elizabeth, had helped me find this apartment. Returning from the Lord's Day meeting, I brought two young Japanese believers and Elizabeth home with me to be my dinner guests. We met this young man whom I mentioned before—he had continued to attend the meetings. His name was Kojima. He looked very miserable and the Lord spoke to me and told me that I must invite him too. I hesitated but had no peace and asked him to come with us. He said he would come later—and he did. After our meal, Elizabeth read the Scriptures and prayed. And then Kojima followed her in prayer, confessing Jesus as Lord! How very glad we were. Later, he told us that he wanted to confess Jesus as Lord but did not have the courage to do so at the meeting place. Then I knew why the Lord had so definitely spoken to me about inviting him to come with us.

He went on for the Lord and has been an evangelist for many years. When he called me a few weeks ago, he told me that he is now 77 years old. I told him I am 91! He has been a real blessing and great encouragement to many.

How faithful our God is!

Hilda Wielenga



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