

January 2016

# Missions



## 60 Years Later

Also inside:

**Niger Youth Center**

**Spanish Women's Ministry**







# Thinking It Through

THOMAS J. SCHETELICH

## The Tree of Life

“In the midst of the garden of Eden stood the Tree of Life.”

**A**dam’s sin in eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil brought death into the world. Seeing this, “the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the Tree of Life, and eat, and live forever’—therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.” (Genesis 3:22–23)

Why would God do that? Why did He place an angel with a flaming sword to prevent Adam (or anyone else) from ever getting near it? What was so bad about eating of the Tree of Life? To put it simply, because, to God, there is something more important than just having eternal life.

To us who are confined to the natural world, eternal life is the best thing we can imagine. But to God, who is eternal, the issue is not the length of your life as it is the source of your life. Eternal life is not worth having unless it is life lived in God’s salvation. Eternal life is not worth having unless it is life in Jesus Christ.

The goal is not an eternal life that would inoculate you from disease and ensure you from injury. God’s purpose for us is much more than that. The goal is not that we would see our loved ones again and have a big reunion in the sky. That is wonderful, but it is a byproduct, not the purpose. God’s goal is that we, by faith, would be joined in resurrection life with Jesus Christ, and nothing less than that.

Adam could eat of the Tree of Life and live forever, but that would not undo sin. It would not bring justice and righteousness upon the earth nor restore fellowship with God. Eternal life is not worth having if it stops there.

John writes “that God has given us eternal life, and this life is

in His Son.” (1 John 5:11) This life is not in a tree, it is not in a religion, it is not in a creed, it is not your progeny or leaving a legacy—“this life is in His Son.”

Further, eternal life, to be worth having, is a life of renewal. We read in Revelation that the Tree of Life is not just one solitary tree. Rather the trees line the River of Life on each side (Revelation 22:2). Each tree bears 12 different fruits, with something different every month.

We see then that the Tree of Life is not something that you eat of once and go away. Rather, the Tree of Life bears fruit seasonally. It is a part of your regular diet. The description of the Tree of Life from Genesis is that it is pleasing to the eye and good for food. You come back to it again and again. Life as God made it to be, and life by faith in Jesus Christ, is a life of variety. It is a life of seasons and change, and it is a life of constant renewal.

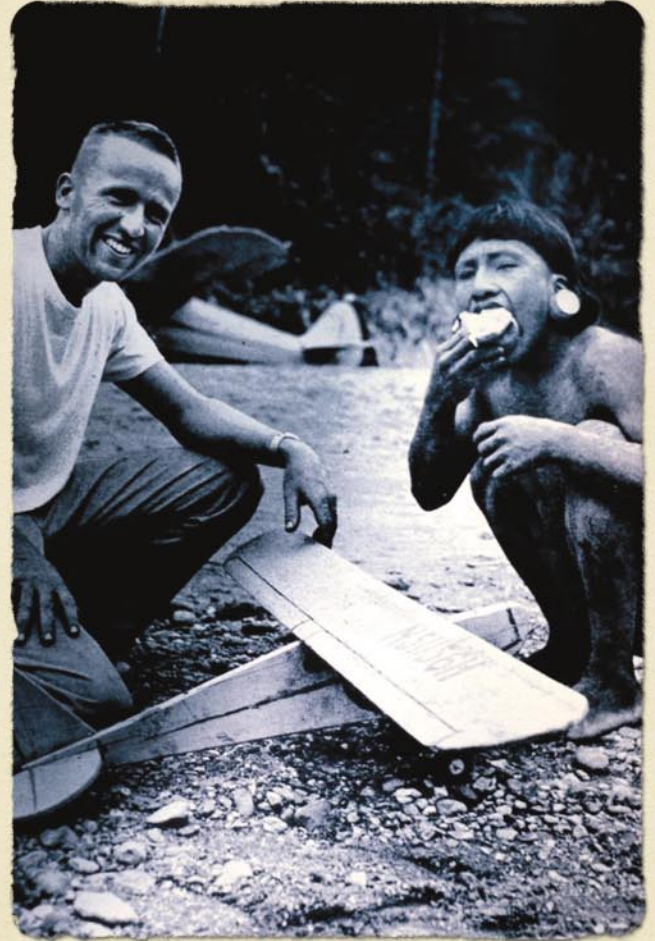
Isaiah wrote that “they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31)

David prayed that the Lord would create in him “a clean heart and renew a right spirit.” (Psalm 51:10)

Paul wrote that “though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)

God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden into a world that would bring forth thorns and thistles, and from that earth, they had to wrest a living, trying to hold off death for as long as they could. That is the way most of the world still lives. But God has sent you and me into a world that still brings forth the thorns and thistles, to give a testimony of life that starts here and stretches out further than what we can see or know. ■

*Thomas J. Schetelich is a CMML director.*



# Why This WASTE?

60 Years since the Auca Massacre  
January 8, 1956

BY KEN FLEMING

A few days before His crucifixion, Jesus and His disciples were invited to a meal in the house of Simon the leper in Bethany. A woman, probably Mary, surprised the disciples there when she came to Jesus with an alabaster vial of expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus's head as He reclined at the table (Matthew 26:6–13). To Jesus the cost of the perfume reflected her worship and devotion. But to the disciples her sacrifice was a waste of very expensive perfume, and they complained to Jesus saying, "Why this waste?" (Matthew 26:8) Jesus defended Mary's act of costly worship saying, "Wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will be told as a memorial to her." (Matthew 26:13)

## THE MISSIONARIES' SACRIFICE

Sixty years ago on January 8, 1956, five young missionaries offered their lives as a sacrifice while trying to bring the Gospel to an unreached tribe known then as Aucas (now known as Waorani) in the eastern jungle of Ecuador. The missionaries were Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Roger Youderian. They had prayed, planned and prepared for

months to establish a friendly contact with them. They surveyed the jungle by air and located a small settlement of them. They exchanged gifts with the people by a unique "bucket on a cord" system. After about three months they found a sandbar on a nearby river where they could land their small airplane and established a campsite. Three days later on January 6, 1956, three Waorani, two women and a man, visited them in a friendly manner for a long wonderful afternoon. They used the few Wao phrases they knew and even took the man in the plane for a ride over his settlement.

But on Sunday, January 8 a group of Waorani made a surprise attack and speared all five missionaries to death and destroyed the airplane. Pete was standing on a log at the river's edge. He saw Jim, Nate, Ed and Roger being speared, while he called out in the Wao language, "We are your friends. Why are you killing us?" Then Kimo approached Pete. His spear pierced Pete's heart. Five lives were poured out like Mary's perfume as a sacrifice to God. For 60 years their offering has been remembered and has made a life-changing effect on the lives of tens of thousands of people.

Just as the disciples criticized Mary's sacrifice as a waste

**Above (L-R):** Pete and Olive Fleming, Ed and Marilou McCully with Mike McCully, and Elisabeth and Jim Elliot with Valerie Elliot; Nate Saint getting language data from the man they called George.





(Matthew 26:8), so some have criticized the sacrifice of the five missionaries. Five outstanding missionaries were dead. Five wives lost their husbands and nine children lost their fathers. But the reality is, what is offered sincerely to God is never waste. Jesus replied that Mary's sacrifice was, in fact, a "good work" done for Him. He said, "She did it for My burial." Jesus went on to say that Mary's sacrifice would be remembered wherever the Gospel was preached in the whole world (Matthew 26:10, 13). It is true. Even after 2,000 years we still remember her sacrifice as an example of true worship when we gather to remember the Lord. It is also true that what the missionaries did in Ecuador in 1956 is still remembered as a powerful testimony wherever the Gospel is preached. Consider with me an overview of the impact of their sacrifice on world missions.

### IMPACT ON THE WAORANI

The first Wao believer was a girl, Dayuma, who had run away from her group because of the violence and taken a job as a farmhand near Shell. A Wycliffe translator, Rachel Saint, came from Peru to Shell to visit her brother Nate, an MAF pilot. Rachel learned about Dayuma and relocated to Ecuador to study Dayuma's language. Dayuma became a believer.



She was baptized when she and Rachel were visiting America.

Meanwhile, two Waorani women came out of their territory to try to find Dayuma. In God's providence they met Elisabeth Elliot. She invited the women to live with her until Rachel and Dayuma returned from America. When they arrived, the three Waorani women went to their home in the jungle. They soon returned with an invitation for Rachel and Elisabeth Elliot and her daughter, Valerie, to come and live in their jungle village of Tewaeno. The missionary ladies studied the Wao language while Dayuma told the Bible stories she had learned. The Gospel began to penetrate some of the Waorani hearts. Dawa was first. Then God

saved her husband Kimo, who had killed Pete. Then others of the killers, Gikita, Minkaye and Dyuwi believed. Meetings began in Kimo's house. Then they built a "God's Speaking House" when they needed more room. By 1963 Rachel's translation of Mark was available and the Waorani Christians began reaching out to different villages of their own tribe.

Progress was interrupted by tribal warfare, a polio epidemic, and confrontations with the oil company. Lloyd and Linda Rogers came to Arajuno in 1965 and later moved to Shell to widen the scope of their work. Lloyd became the coordinator for various mission agencies that have helped with the work among the Waorani. Wycliffe Translators had a major role in the translation of the New Testament completed

**They gave what they could not keep to gain what they could not lose.**

in 1992 by Catherine Peeke and Rosi Jung. Schools and airstrips were built in various Wao settlements. Compassion International helped substantially with the cost of education. Missionary Aviation Fellowship used the airstrips. A branch hospital was built at Shell by the larger VozAndes Hospital in Quito. Health clinics began to serve the needs of the villages. Lloyd Rogers established a campsite on the coast where many Waorani came to faith in Jesus.

As Waorani were saved, there was less jungle warfare and villages were built. Tonampare became the permanent home of Rachel Saint and Dayuma until the Lord took them home. There are now nearly 300 believers of an estimated total pop-

**Top (L-R):** Grave marker that later washed away with the graves in a flood; Piper airplane destroyed by killers, when the rescue team arrived; Pete Fleming and Nankiwi "George" in front of the plane; Ed, Pete and Jim with a parrot given to them by the Waorani via Nate's bucket on a cord method when they were trying to befriend the Waorani from the air. **Bottom:** Dayuma and her husband in 2006 in Tonampare.



ulation of 1,800 Waorani living in 15 jungle settlements. Eight of the jungle villages have regular church meetings. There is a small Bible school at Damointaro to train new believers. Other Waorani have studied at the larger Bible school at Pomaski near Quito where the Rogers now live. All this is a confirmation that the blood of five missionary martyrs became the seed of the Waorani church. They gave what they could not keep to gain what they could not lose.

## THANKSGIVING CONFERENCE

One of the highlights of my life was to attend a conference of thanksgiving and praise held by the Waorani believers at Tonampare on the 50th anniversary of the martyrdom in January 2006. Where the men died is just a short walk from the village. From a dozen villages, 200 believing Waorani walked through the jungle for days so they could spend three days in thanksgiving and praise to God. They were joined by

other believers from surrounding tribal groups including Quichua, Shwar, Ashwar and Cofani. A number of missionaries and representatives of mission organizations that had served the Waorani, such as Wycliffe Bible Translators, Compassion International, Missionary Aviation Fellowship and the VosAndes Hospital, were also in attendance. It was a wonderful privilege to join them in praising God for what He had done. I was thrilled to put my arm around Kimo, who had killed my brother Peter and was now a believer and a church leader—thrilled to see Diyuiwi now a believer able to read, looking up Scriptures in a complete Waorani New Testament to share with 10 young believers who were to be baptized that day in the very spot where five missionaries had died exactly 50 years before on another Sunday, January 8. Then, after the baptism, we broke bread in worship and praise with all of them on that sandbar in remembrance of the Lord Jesus—what a joy.



Top (L-R): Breaking of Bread and baptism attendees; 2006 conference participants including Pete's brother Ken and Jim's brother, Bert (a missionary in Peru until his passing in 2012). Bottom (L-R): Baptism where the men died 50 years before, to the day; Wao leaders with complete Wao New Testaments; Ken Fleming with Kimo, who speared Pete, but is now a warm believer.



## IMPACT ON WORLD MISSIONS

In God's goodness the missionaries' sacrifice has led to the salvation of about 300 Waorani people. Life in the jungle has significantly changed from the former violence and killings. It has also affected me personally, knowing some of those involved in the ongoing work among the Waorani. My good friends, Lloyd and Linda Rogers in particular, have poured themselves into this work during most of the 60 years since the five men died. The speaking, writing and radio ministry of Elisabeth Elliot has been another major factor. More recently, Nate Saint's son, Steve, has captured the attention of many through his trips there and his speaking and writing. He spearheaded the documentary movie, *Beyond the Gates of Splendor* and the narrative movie, *End of the Spear*. The cumulative effect of all this has given the Ecuador story the single greatest impact on missions than any other mission story in the last century. What is lesser known is the effect that the men's sacrifice has made in the different parts of the world. A few short vignettes may help us appreciate this.

### Boyuipe, Bolivia 1977

In 1977 I visited Mark and Carol Mattix, missionaries in Bolivia. They took us to visit believers in an isolated mountain village called Boyuipe. A local elder asked me a few questions about my family when he suddenly excused himself for a moment and came back holding a rumpled old Spanish edition of Elisabeth Elliot's book, *Through Gates of Splendor*. His face lit up when he said to me, "Then your brother must have been one of these men." He went on to say, "This story caused me to give my life to serving God."

### Timbuktu, Mali 1986

Steve Saint tells in his book, *Walking His Trail*, of a time when on a survey trip he was marooned in the town of Timbuktu in the Sahara Desert. Unable to communicate in French, he met a young man named Nouh who led him to a missionary on the edge of town. As they talked, Nouh explained that he had come to Christ through a former missionary, but his parents had become angry. He was dismissed from school and his mother tried to kill him by poisoning his food. The poison had no effect on him, but his brother, who had stolen some of the food, became ill and permanently paralyzed. Nouh's parents continued to persecute him. Steve Saint asked him how he could keep his faith. He said that the former missionary had given him books in French. His favorite was the story of five men who had died in Ecuador. The missionary standing there then said that he remembered that the one of those who died had the same last name as Steve.

"Yes," Steve answered, "The pilot was my father." Nouh then cried out, "Then the story is true!" The two men hugged each other. Both were grateful that God had arranged for them to meet in a place like Timbuktu.

### St. Louis, Missouri, 1951

Dr. Dan Smith, longtime president of Emmaus Bible College, grew up in Missouri. He committed his life to Christ while in the Marine Corps. He came back to Missouri to prepare himself to serve God. Jim Elliot and Ed McCully came to the St. Louis area for ministry. In their weekly radio program, Dan helped with music, playing trumpet/trombone duets with Ed. Five years later Dan heard that Jim and Ed had been killed in Ecuador. Dan's reaction was to take their place. He told me of the spiritual lift it gave him. He said, "For my spiritual life it was like kicking in the afterburner." Dan went on to serve God faithfully at Emmaus Bible College until the present.

### Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2000

During a world conference on Evangelism sponsored by the Billy Graham organization in the year 2000, Steve Saint and his father's killer, Minkaye, were among the 12,000 delegates from all over the world. While there, Steve and Minkaye had the opportunity to ask the crowd how many of them had made life-changing decisions as a result of the five missionaries' deaths in 1956. They could hardly believe it when at least 3,000 delegates stood to their feet.

## OUR RESPONSE, JANUARY 2016

Those five men did not die in vain. Their sacrifice was not "waste" in God's mind but an act of worship that pleased Him. What then, is the point of their sacrifice to us? Pete's favorite hymn by C. E. Miller should sum up our response.<sup>1</sup>

*Lord, in the fullness of my might, I would for Thee be strong;  
While runneth o're each dear delight, To Thee should soar my song.*

*I would not with swift winged zeal, on the world's errands go;  
And labor up the heavenly hill, with weary feet and slow.*

*O not for Thee my weak desires, my poorer, baser part;  
O not for Thee my fading fires, the ashes of my heart.*

*O choose me in my golden time, in my dear joys have part;  
For thee the glory of my prime, the fullness of my heart. ■*

*Ken Fleming has served the Lord as a missionary, Bible teacher, and writer. Ken's book Peter Fleming: Man of Faith is available through ECS Ministries.*

<sup>1</sup> Hymns II, InterVarsity Press, Downer's Grove, Illinois



# Following Their Example

## Missionaries share how five men impacted their call to the field

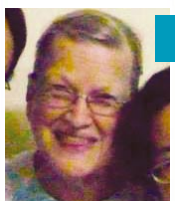
We recently asked our missionaries “Were you impacted by the life and death of Jim Elliot, Peter Fleming, Ed McCully, Nate Saint and Roger Youderian?” The response was overwhelming. Here are 12 testimonies of how these five young men, who died 60 years ago, have affected world missions. We believe there are countless more stories, some only known in heaven.



### Dorothy Woodside—Zambia

From my earliest years, my family always attended missionary study classes each month. I was fascinated by the stories and pictures that were shared. I was nine years old when the five missionaries were martyred in Ecuador. Even though I was not “secure in the knowledge of my salvation,” I was certain at that time that God wanted me to be a missionary. All decisions that I made from that time forth were made with the intent of someday going overseas to serve the Lord as a missionary. I became a nurse with the intent of going to Nyankunde in Congo; however, God changed those plans by allowing the civil war to erupt.

Between nursing school and Biola University and my coming to Chitokoloki, Zambia, many things have happened, but my focus was always on the “call” that I heard when I was just nine years old. To give back to God everything, even maybe dying on the mission field, is the highest gift that I can offer to Him who did so much for me.



### Alice White—Zambia

It was the year after I finished college, and I was teaching school in Key West. I was praying about the Lord’s will for me in the future. We went to the February monthly missionary class in Miami where we heard more about the martyrs. I was challenged by Elisabeth Elliot’s book *Through Gates of Splendor*. Later, Jim’s parents flew to Ecuador to see where he was killed. When they returned, they visited my family and some assemblies in South Florida and told us about their visit. This time with Jim’s parents was another link of several that assured me that the Lord wanted me on the mission field, and in July 1959 I left for Chavuma, Zambia.



### Jerry Uy—Philippines

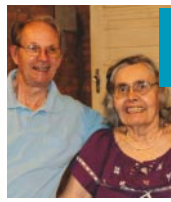
Jim Elliot’s quote, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose,” has kept my life focused on sharing Christ, specifically with youth. As a young man succeeding academically in high school

and college, I used to think my success would be based on riches and following the “American dream.” But Jim Elliot’s quote made me realize that treasures in heaven and souls won for Jesus are what I “cannot lose.” Now, I am a missionary-teacher using my love for academics to win young people to Christ.



### Dorothy Abreu—Dominican Rep.

Stories of Pete Fleming and his fellow workers had a profound influence on me as I read each book that came out. Those books, plus visits from the Logan family from Africa, turned my mind toward missions at the young age of 12. To have the faith in God that they showed, and the support from their wives, showed me that true faith in God bears much fruit.



### Raymond & Marian Green—Paraguay

We were definitely influenced by the Ecuadorian missionaries, through the book *Through Gates of Splendor*, but more personally, Marian’s family, the Murrays, had known the McCully family for some years before I appeared on the scene. Mr. McCully performed our wedding on October 6, 1957, in Mishawaka, Indiana. Over the years we had given quite a bit of thought and prayer to possible involvement in Ecuador, but the Lord never opened the door for us to go. When traveling to Paraguay by car in 1974, we had the privilege of spending several days in Shell in the jungle. The pull to just unpack and stay right there was considerable, but we knew in our hearts that He had something for us to do in Paraguay.



### Carol Mattix—Bolivia

I was a little girl when the five men were killed in Ecuador. At Whitman Avenue Gospel Chapel I grew up hearing about the events and was very aware of the mission field. Pete Fleming’s father attended our assembly and I attended Bible camps with the McCully children.





## Irene Ridgeway—Ecuador

The month was January 1956, just four months before graduation from Bible school and still no clear direction as to where God would have us to serve Him. We were eating breakfast when a radio announcer startled us [Bill and I]. With a voice strained with emotion, he confirmed the martyrdom of five missionary men in the jungles of Ecuador. The message awakened Christians around the world to the cost of evangelism. At our kitchen table we clasped hands and prayed, "Please, Lord, let us take their place." God makes no mistakes. It was our privilege to serve God in Ecuador and reach many children and adults with the Gospel message for more than 40 years.



## Priscilla Clark—Mexico

In January 1956, my dad, Daniel Kendal, was a student at Ben Lippen High School near Asheville, North Carolina. A missionary speaker at a chapel service stunned the student body with the news of the death of these five missionaries in South America. He then presented the challenge: "Who will take their place?" At that moment my dad knew that he would never be satisfied using his life in any other way than for the Lord's service on a foreign field. He went on to faithfully serve the Lord for more than 40 years in Central America and Mexico, until the Lord called him home in 2010.

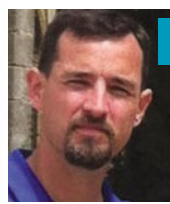
I am convinced that this decision and faithfulness on his part impacted my life, setting the course for a life of service in Mexico. There is no greater satisfaction in life than to be involved in the spread of the Gospel to a needy world.



## Pablo Cenepo-Torres—Peru

While a freshman at seminary, a fellow classmate and I looked for a profitable way to spend our winter recess. Being almost the only two souls left on campus, we dared each other to spend our week doing something worthwhile. He chuckled when I said that I would do more reading. You see, one of my professors candidly said that he'd support anyone led to serve in missions because of Jim Elliot. Also, I remembered that I neglected reading these books about Jim even when I had them at my fingertips in Peru while living with his older brother, Bert, during my teens. I ran back into my room and didn't come out until I completely read *Shadow of the Almighty*. The truth is, once I started, I couldn't put it down. I was paralyzed with an overwhelming feeling of

guilt for not doing anything significant up till then. I approached my friend and dared him to memorize a whole book of the Bible. He agreed and we recommitted our lives to serve in missions (he in India, and I in Peru).



## Jerry Mattix—Special Areas

Having grown up in South America, I was always intrigued by the stories of missionaries who had sacrificed themselves for the Gospel in my part of the world. One of the first assignments I was given at Emmaus Bible College was to read about the Ecuador martyrs. I soon realized that my professor, Ken Fleming, was actually the brother of one of them. This piqued my interest and soon I was scouring the library for any additional information related to their endeavor. I later found out that my own grandmother Ruth (Knight) Picini actually knew Jim Elliot from their youth group days in the Northwest. She was quick to point out the "clay feet" of my idolized version of Jim. Still, his impassioned writings and the courage of all five men and their wives struck a chord deep within me, challenging me to do greater things for God.



## Stephen Roughton—Mexico

Jim was my hero growing up. One thing that stuck with me through the years was how Jim had his eyes fixed on the mission field and made conscious decisions in order to fulfill his calling. One of these decisions was to go on the field before considering a relationship with Elisabeth. This I took to heart and kept my focus on going to the mission field and not so much on having an "Elisabeth" in my life. Now I have been on the mission field for almost seven years, still waiting for my "Elisabeth" and glad that I did not allow a relationship to distract me from fulfilling my calling.

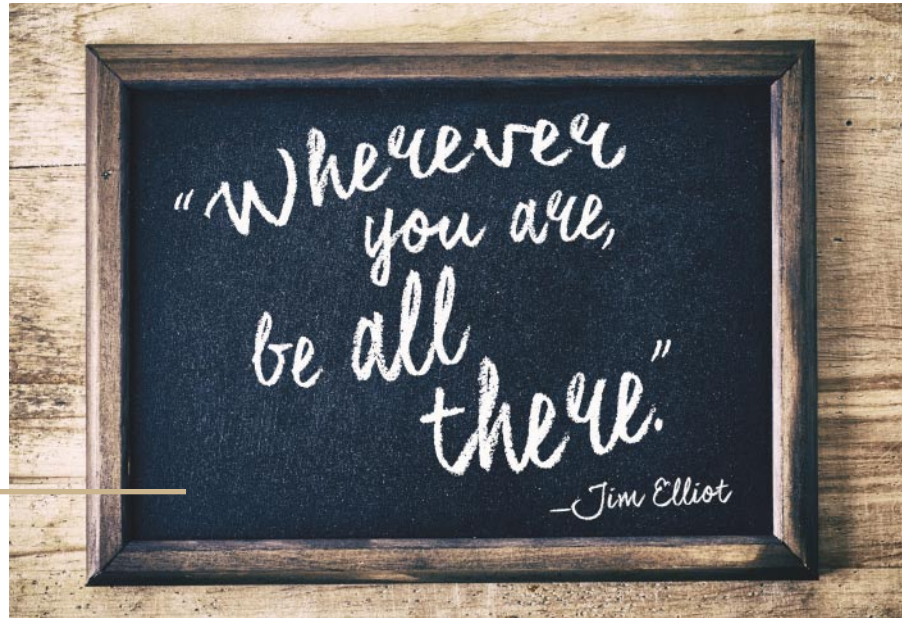


## Tim Wagar—Paraguay

When my dad gave me *Shadow of the Almighty*, I was a Christian teenager struggling with God over a number of issues. This book and a friend, Dave Swanson, helped me to see that Christianity could be lived with joy on a full-time basis. After I got my degree and worked a year, I went to Ecuador for a month to visit Lloyd Rogers and his family, missionaries in Shell. A number of years later, my wife and I, along with our two daughters, moved to Paraguay. It has been 30 years. Without a doubt these young men played a role in my life. I have given little but gained much. ■



# Be All There



BY ANNIE ELLIOTT

I'm a planner. A list-writer extraordinaire. Give me a project, I'll give you a multileveled list to follow. Just ask my boss, Tom Turner. I greet him as he comes into the office with a page-long list to discuss.

Overall, I assume this is a good trait—a finely tuned skill, a gift even! But, this "gift" lends itself to another, less desirable tendency: a focus on the future which leads to present circumstances becoming secondary. I'm sure many have also experienced this phenomenon. You're in school but focused on summer break ahead. You're in college but focused on your anticipated career. You're single but focused on married life. Newly wed but focused on having children. Working but focused on retirement. Or even home in North America but focused on the possibility of a life on the mission field. These are all good things and many future events require much thought, prayer, planning—and maybe even a list! But do we get so focused on the future that we forget about the present circumstances the Lord has placed us in?

My mother-in-law recently sent me a photo she took of a coffee shop chalkboard. It said, "Quote of the day: 'wherever you are, be all there' – Jim Elliot." What she didn't know is at that very moment I was working on this issue of *Missions* magazine—both the January issue, a time of year that we often focus on the future, and the 60th anniversary edition of the home call of Jim Elliot and his four companions.

What a wonderful New Year's reminder—"Wherever you are, be all there." Jim Elliot got it right. In his life, and in his death, he was an example to us of one who devoted himself wholly to his God-given task. While the world often tells us to make a New Year's resolution, to determine plans—write a list—to change your life, may we alternatively remain solely focused on serving the Lord in our present circumstances. Let

the Lord's teachings in Luke 12:22–31 drown out the world's clamoring for self-help:

*Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith?"*

*"And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you."*

Have you become restless? Has your focus on the future distracted you from trusting and serving the Lord today? May we "resolve" this New Year to focus less on the next step, the next plan, and rather to be "all there" in our present circumstances for the Lord's service and glory. Don't let your plans for the future, or even future ministry, distract you from your current service to Him. ■

*Annie Elliott is the editor of Missions magazine.*



# May We Introduce

## Mike & Melinda Dilione *Missionaries to Jamaica*



### Melinda's Testimony

I was raised in a traditional Italian-Catholic home in Connecticut where I was exposed to Catholic mass at a young age. I performed the sacraments in the Catholic Church but unfortunately, I do not recollect hearing the Gospel being preached in a way that caused me to understand I was a sinner in need of a Savior. I thought I was a "good person" who of course would go to heaven when I died. Early into my freshman year at the University of Connecticut, I was invited to an assembly-based Bible study on campus. After a few weeks of diving into the Word of God through this study, I understood my need of a personal Lord and Savior and gave my life to Christ. That was November 10, 2004. I was 18 years old. I spent the next four years studying at UConn and attending an assembly off campus. I was saturated in the Word of God through solid Bible teaching and was built up by strong believers. During my senior year of college, missionaries Terry and Jane Gilpin (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 3) visited their sister at my assembly in Connecticut. Jane, who had worked at CMML for many years before being married, shared with me the need for help with *Missions* magazine after she heard I was majoring in journalism. Two weeks after graduating from UConn in 2008, I moved to Belmar, New Jersey, to work as editor of *Missions* magazine at CMML; a ministry I continued for approximately four years.

### Mike's Testimony

I was born and raised in a non-Christian home. The closest thing to a godly influence I had in my life was my grandmother who was a devout Catholic. My parents were divorced when I was 4 years old. When I was 10, I decided to live with my dad. I noticed a basketball hoop in the driveway of the house behind my apartment and I would go shoot basketball with-

out any invitation. Thankfully, the two kids who lived there were believers. They invited me to youth group and, after attending a couple of times, one night we sat in front of my apartment and talked about the Gospel for a long time.

**"He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again." 2 Cor 5:15**

Finally, I was able to recognize that I was a sinner in need of a Savior. That night I gave my life to Christ and repented of my sins. For the first time I can remember feeling like I had peace in my life. This family also invested in my life and brought me to church every Sunday. Although I did not grow up in a Christian home, this

family made sure that I was raised with Christian values, for which I am forever grateful.

### Together

Interest in cross-cultural missions began when we were engaged in 2009. Through Melinda working at CMML, we had a unique opportunity to get to know missionaries serving around the world. We loved to take opportunities to get know missionaries while they were in residence at CMML, which consequently sparked our hearts to serve. More specifically, Mike was invited to an all-night prayer meeting, which the Lord directly used to convict us to go. The harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few. We originally thought we were called to serve in North Africa, but after almost four years of intensive prayer, discussion and consideration with our elders, we were redirected to serve in the Trelawny area of Jamaica, where the needs are great. With our two children, Annabelle (3) and Asher (2), we are commended for two years and, Lord willing, will work alongside four local assemblies through Bible teaching, discipleship, evangelistic outreach, youth work and hospitality. We covet your prayers as we seek to bring glory to God with our lives. ■





When the mail deliverer arrives with my magazine, it gives me such happiness. I receive it as a very valued gift because I know that in its interior God speaks to me and teaches me to be a better Christian, mother and wife." Responses such as this one received from a subscriber in Spain encourage me to invest my time working with *Caminemos Juntas*, a magazine produced by and for Spanish-speaking Christian women worldwide.

# Encourage One Another

I Thessalonians 5:11

*Caminemos Juntas*, a Magazine Ministering to Spanish-Speaking Women Worldwide

BY TRACY ALEMÁN



In its 25 years of publication, the magazine has helped women in their daily walk with God, offering articles for edification and evangelism, Bible studies and testimonials written by Spanish-speaking sisters in Christ serving the Lord in many different countries. *Caminemos Juntas*, which means "Let's Walk Together," reflects the magazine's purpose to mutually and biblically encourage women in their God-given roles as wives, mothers, daughters and believers in the body of Christ.



I began to work with the magazine more than 16 years ago when my husband and I first moved to Spain as missionaries commended by our assembly in Oregon. At that time, help was needed to create a database to manage subscriber data and automate mailings. This later led into other administrative tasks, followed by several years working in design and layout, and finally into my current administrative support role.

Earlier in my life, while contemplating the desire God had instilled in my heart to serve Him as a missionary, I wondered how my business degree and computer skills could be useful to serve the Lord and reach people for Christ. Now, as I look back on these years we've served in Spain, it has become evident to me how God faithfully orchestrated my previous studies and vocation to equip me for the work He had prepared beforehand, for which I return thanks to Him.

Other women who work with the magazine share similar sentiments as they recognize how God prepared them for the



From top: Group of subscribers in the Dominican Republic; Argentine administrator, Elizabeth Benassich, working with the magazine coordinator for all of Argentina, Graciela de Loureiro; Organizational meeting.





**Left and below:**  
 Founder Gloria Morris working on the magazine in its beginnings; Seville office staff working together.



role they play in *Caminemos Juntas*. Some of them are missionaries or full-time workers in their respective countries, contributing as writers, representatives and distributors of the magazine. In Spain and Argentina, where we print the magazine and where the greatest populations of our subscribers reside, groups of women work together to package and mail each issue as it arrives from the printer. This worldwide team of women, each working from their respective countries and using their God-given talents and preparation, find joy in serving the Lord together. It all began with the initiative of one missionary.

*Caminemos Juntas* was founded in Spain in 1990 by Gloria Morris, who, along with her husband, Charles, transferred from their full-time service in the Lord's work in Argentina to serve as missionaries in Seville, Spain, beginning in 1984. In response to a lack of printed materials for Christian women in the Spanish-speaking world, Gloria's vision to satisfy that need led her to found the magazine, for which she rallied sisters in Christ from around the globe to give of their time, talents and resources. Although Gloria is present with the Lord since September 2013, her daughter, Elisabeth Bryant, carries on the ministry in cooperation with our current director, Débora Fernández, and with the team of women who have continued in our respective roles. Today, *Caminemos Juntas* is distributed every two months to more than 4,650 subscribers in 23 countries.

Those of us who invest our time in working with the magazine do so because we have seen our sisters in Christ blessed, challenged and transformed by the articles which reach out and minister to them. Testimonies such as this one from the Canary Islands encourage us in the work:

*One afternoon a young Brazilian woman named Luciene... was handed an issue of Caminemos Juntas. When she read it, she was impacted by a woman's testimony in that issue. With tears, she expressed that that was her testimony also...and it was through that article that she surrendered her life to the Lord. Since then, she has been baptized and is an active member in her local church.*



**Above and right:** Packaging team in Buenos Aires prepares distribution for all of Argentina; Elisabeth Bryant reviews page layout before approving an issue for print.



**Above:** Group of subscribers in Spain.



**Bottom row (L-R):** Gloria Morris speaking at the 20th anniversary celebration of publication in Seville; 20th anniversary in Seville; Cuban center for the blind where the magazine's audio version is heard.



Although the ministry of *Caminemos Juntas* began with the printed magazine, the Lord later allowed us to expand its outreach to include several evangelistic tracts and an audio-recorded version of the publication available on CD for blind or visually-impaired women. This audio version is distributed free of charge by Nueva Luz (translated: "New Light"), an assembly-based ministry in Spain which produces Bibles, correspondence courses and other materials in audio and Braille formats. More recently, a sister in Scotland offered to enhance the scope of the magazine by funding and administering a website where additional articles and devotionals reach Spanish-speaking women who have access to technology.

Emerging technology permits us to provide many of our subscribers with additional material on the Web as well as facilitate communications through email and social media. However, many of our readers reside in remote areas lacking access to technology. These women appreciate the printed magazine which arrives by mail to their home or church.

Consequently, a growing outreach of our magazine extends to sisters in Christ overseas located in communities where economic resources are scarce, and the local assemblies possess very little printed material. The Lord has allowed us the privilege of serving these women by sending a subscription without charge to some of their churches. In response, an elder of a Cuban church sent this hand-written letter of thanks:

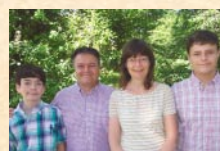
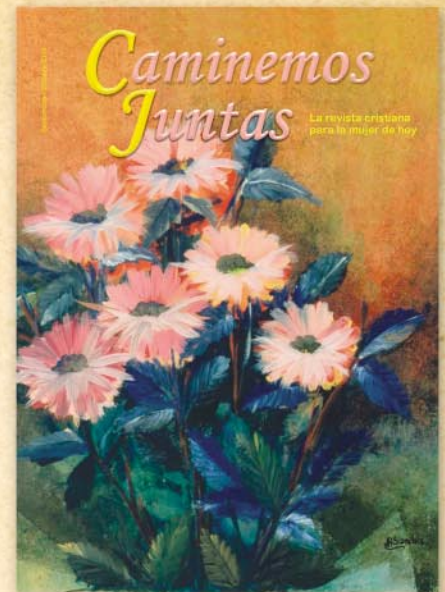
*We live in a country village where we have no Christian literature and very few Bibles.... When the magazine arrives in my hands, I read all of its content, examining it with the Word of God. Afterward, it gets passed among all the sisters in the assembly. When they are finished, then the brothers read it, and then we lend it to whomever else would like to read it. In the short time we have been receiving the magazine, it has become popular (well-read) in our village. Sisters, this magazine is a spiritual blessing to all of us in Calixto, Cuba, for which we give thanks to God, and we pray for you, that God our Father would always provide for you, both spiritually and economically. These offerings of yours will be for you a crown of righteousness that God, our Just Judge, will give you on that day.*

A Spanish brother traveling abroad helped us deliver some magazines by hand-carrying them to be distributed among the churches. He reported that "the Cuban sisters look forward to receiving each issue, which they circulate among a good number of women."

Our heart goes out to these readers who have access to very little Christian material and who express their earnest thanks for the magazines we send them. As the Lord provides, we hope to persevere in this aspect of our ministry and even expand it to include more churches in those countries where they cannot afford to purchase printed material for edification.

When we look back to consider God's faithfulness over these past 25 years of publication, we humbly thank Him for working through a worldwide team of women to volunteer their time and talents in writing, correcting, editing, voice recording, photography, artwork, design, office work, logistics, packaging, mailing, and acting as magazine representatives in the local churches.

As we look to the future, in God's will we hope to continue reaching out to women of the Spanish-speaking world with material in print, audio and digital formats, to encourage and exhort them in their daily walk with Him. Please join us in prayer that God would keep working in the hearts and minds of our writers and readers so they might encourage one another and build each other up as sisters in Christ. To God be the glory; great things He has done! ■



*Tracy and Manuel Alemán, commended by Westside Bible Fellowship in Hillsboro, Oregon, have served in Seville, Spain, since 1999. A large part of their ministry comprises printed*

*material for evangelism, edification and teaching from God's Word. While Tracy dedicates some of her time to the women's magazine, Manuel translates and edits Emmaus Correspondence School courses in addition to his teaching and evangelistic responsibilities in the local assembly.*

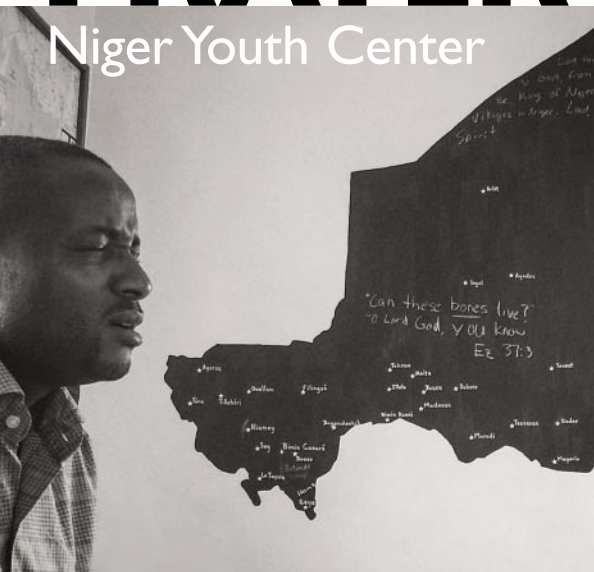


Top: Magazine cover.



# PRAYER Opens Doors

## Niger Youth Center



BY PHILIP C. PARSONS

## It began with prayer!

Unable to remain a missionary in Egypt, Nathan Bramsen (*Missionary Prayer Handbook* Day 3) earnestly sought the Lord's direction for another place to serve. As he shared his burden with others, it became clear that concentrated and specific prayer was the key to hearing from God. The few who showed interest and aligned with his convictions were invited to an all-night prayer meeting in the library at Christian Missions in Many Lands. Those unable to be physically present joined the group by dialing a global conferencing center. For several months, this group committed their time to pray for the country of Niger. Prayer opened the door and today nine young men and women commended from assemblies in the United States and Canada are reaching the youth of Niger for the Lord Jesus Christ. Recently, my wife, Mary, and I were privileged to attend the dedication service for the Youth Development Center in Kwara Tagi, Niger.

### Humble beginnings

Mbah Johnson Timah, better known simply as Johnson, was the first teammate with Nathan and part of the Niger prayer team from the beginning. His vision, passion and burden to reach the youth of Niger so closely matched with Nathan that a strong bond quickly formed. While prayers were offered for Niger, visits were made to a number of villages within close proximity of the capital city of Niamey. Discussion with missionaries and personnel from other relief organizations, coupled with a God-given con-



viction to show the love of the Lord Jesus Christ with children, led to establishing a ministry in the village of Kwara Tagi.

### A nation facing a crisis

In many ways, and for a variety of contributing factors, Niger is a country in crisis. The United Nations Human Development Index shows Niger as the world's least developed country. Malnutrition and malaria often mean that one in eight children will not make it to age five. Niger has one of the highest birth rates in the world, averaging 6.89 babies per woman. Half of Niger's population is under age 15. It is not uncommon to see the streets filled with children. Although many children attend school, the economy is unable to provide sustained education. Many girls do not attend school and while the national literacy rate is low at 30 percent, for women it is 15 percent. The average annual income per capita is \$420. Subsistence farming is the main source of employment and is often subjected to the perils of low yield due to lack of rain.



### The village of Kwara Tagi

The residents of Kwara Tagi once enjoyed their proximity to Niamey. To make room for the construction of a soccer stadium, the people were relocated to the outskirts of the capital. Today, more than 60,000 people call Kwara Tagi home, where most are farmers and others make a living as street vendors selling vegetables and other food. It is also known as the "red light" district of Niamey.





It was the multitude of children that captivated the attention of Nathan and Johnson. Over time and through persistent prayer, others joined them in the work. Currently, the Kwara Tagi team includes Nathan, Johnson, Charles and Asia Corbin, Justin and April Gauvain, Jon and April Hayes, Leah Zardo, and Tyler Vecchio. Jacob Hanneman, a short-term worker who arrived in July, and Clarin, from another mission organization, round out the team.



### Ministry to children

The first kids' club met in the courtyard of the home rented by Jon, Justin and Johnson. For an hour each Saturday morning, hundreds of children eagerly gather at the gate waiting for the door to open so that they can sing songs, hear the Gospel and taste the love of God as expressed by the team. These young lives experience love like never before. That's what keeps them coming week after week! There are no games, no refreshments; just profound expressions of love as shown by a loving and caring team.

### Youth Development Center

Following two years of planning and construction, the Youth Development Center was opened after a dedication service on September 19, 2015. The center is simply a resource and a tool to point the children of Kwara Tagi to the Lord Jesus Christ by developing their God-given potential through music, art, agriculture, and athletics. Even preschool-age children have the opportunity to learn about the Lord. Niger's future is in the

hands of this generation, and it is they who are the most open and responsive to the Gospel. The center will be the home to kids' club and other community events. The most important component of the center is the top floor. It has been designated as the place of prayer. In the prayer room, a large map of Niger is painted on the wall with 33 principal population centers identified for specific prayer. The vision is to establish unending prayer for the nation, the leaders, the community and the outreach. Imagine the impact where prayer is ongoing 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year!

### Pray for Niger

Niger is a Muslim nation. Although there is a measure of openness to the Gospel, there are elements resistant to Christianity. Some children who attend kids' club are threatened by their parents if they go.



Those who desire to follow Christ face spiritual warfare and discouragement. Still, the Gospel is faithfully preached and some are confessing the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that all who hear will come to know Him as personal Savior. Two kids' clubs meet each week in different locations in the community. Pray that more workers would join the ministry team of the Youth Development Center. Pray for the local church that was recently established. Pray for safety. The team needs our prayers as they daily confront spiritual warfare. Pray for unity, focus, and dependence upon God so that the Kwara Tagi community sees the Lord Jesus Christ evidenced in their lives. ■

*Philip C. Parsons, CMML Assembly Relations and Missionary Care.*